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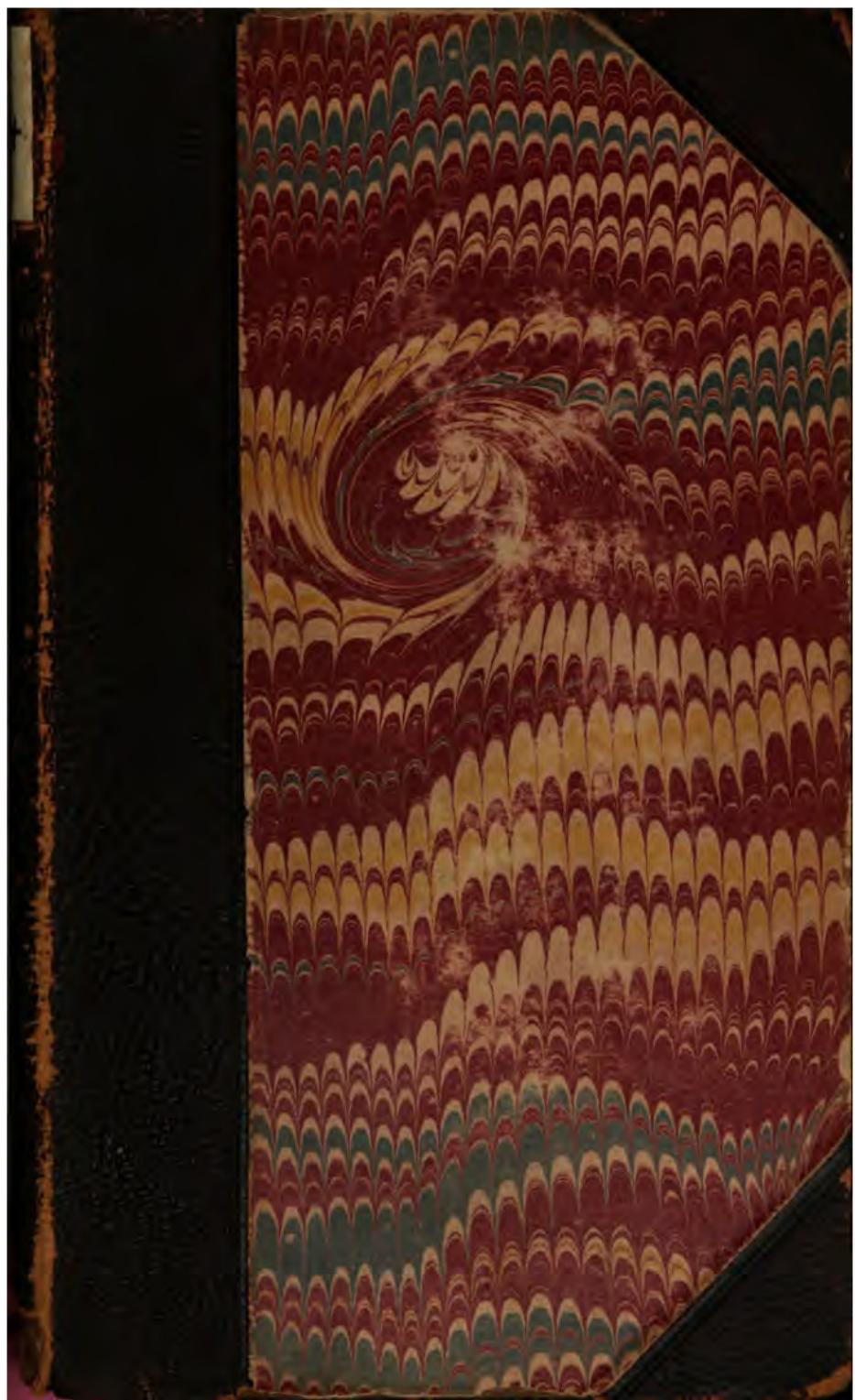
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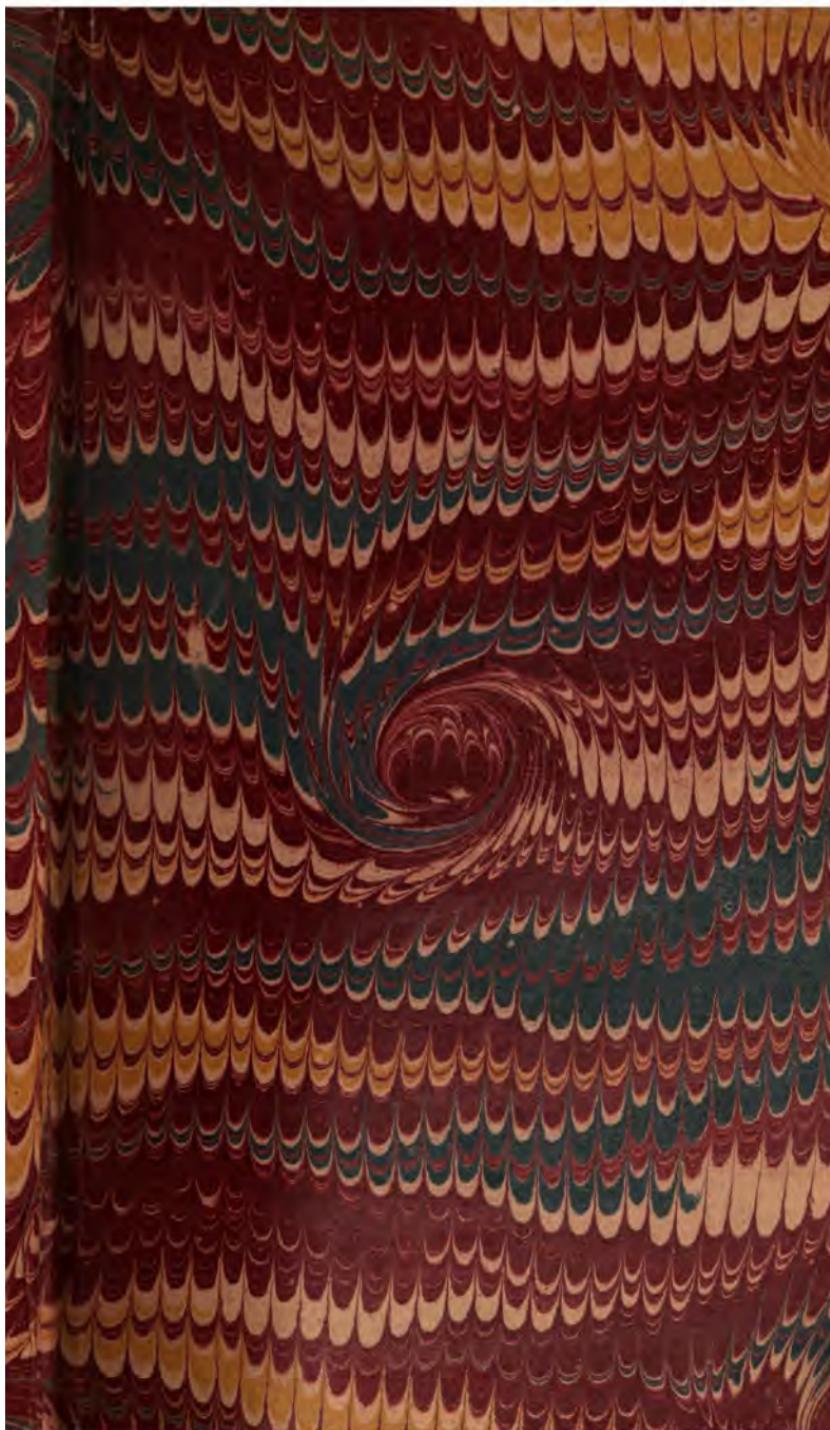
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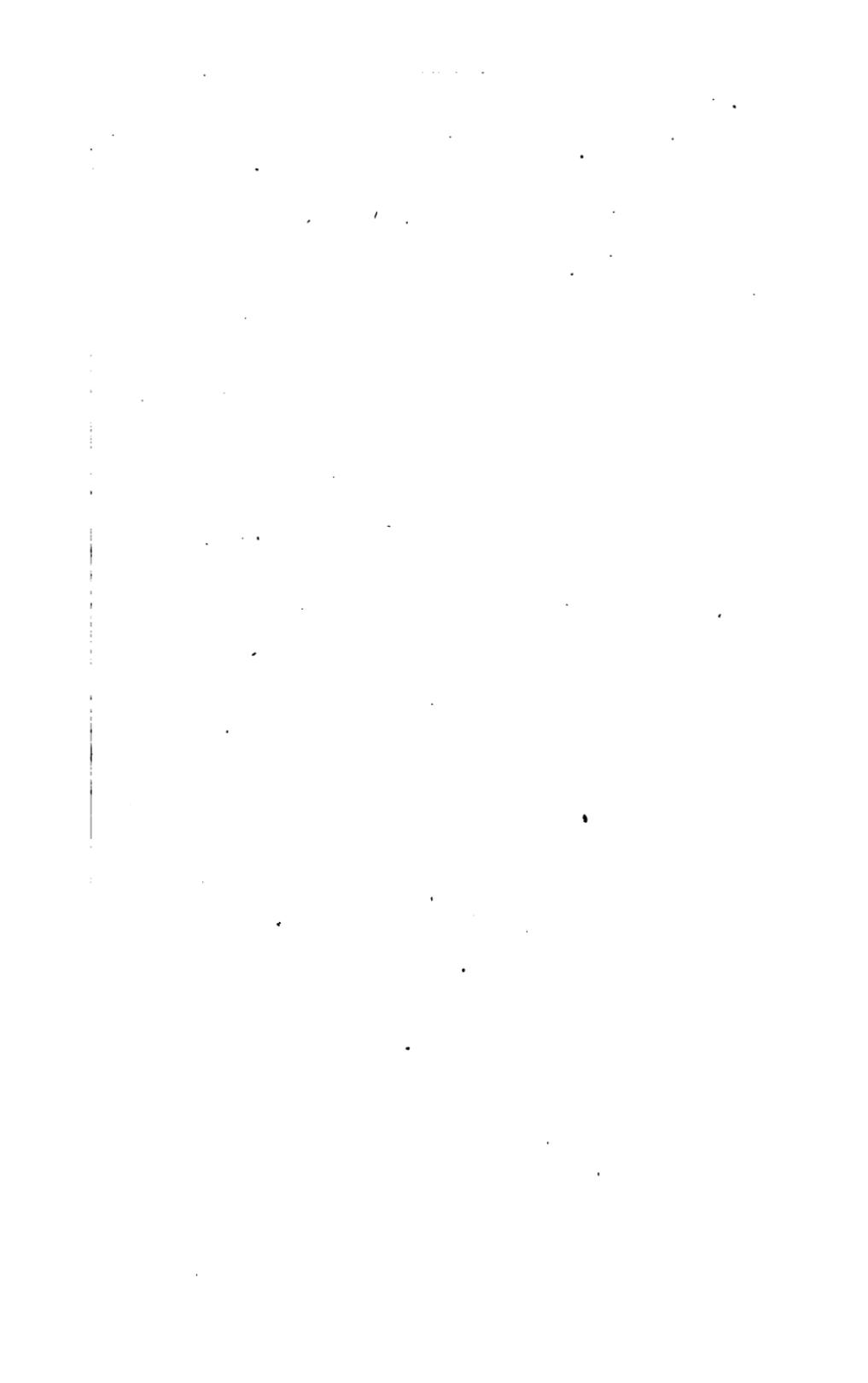


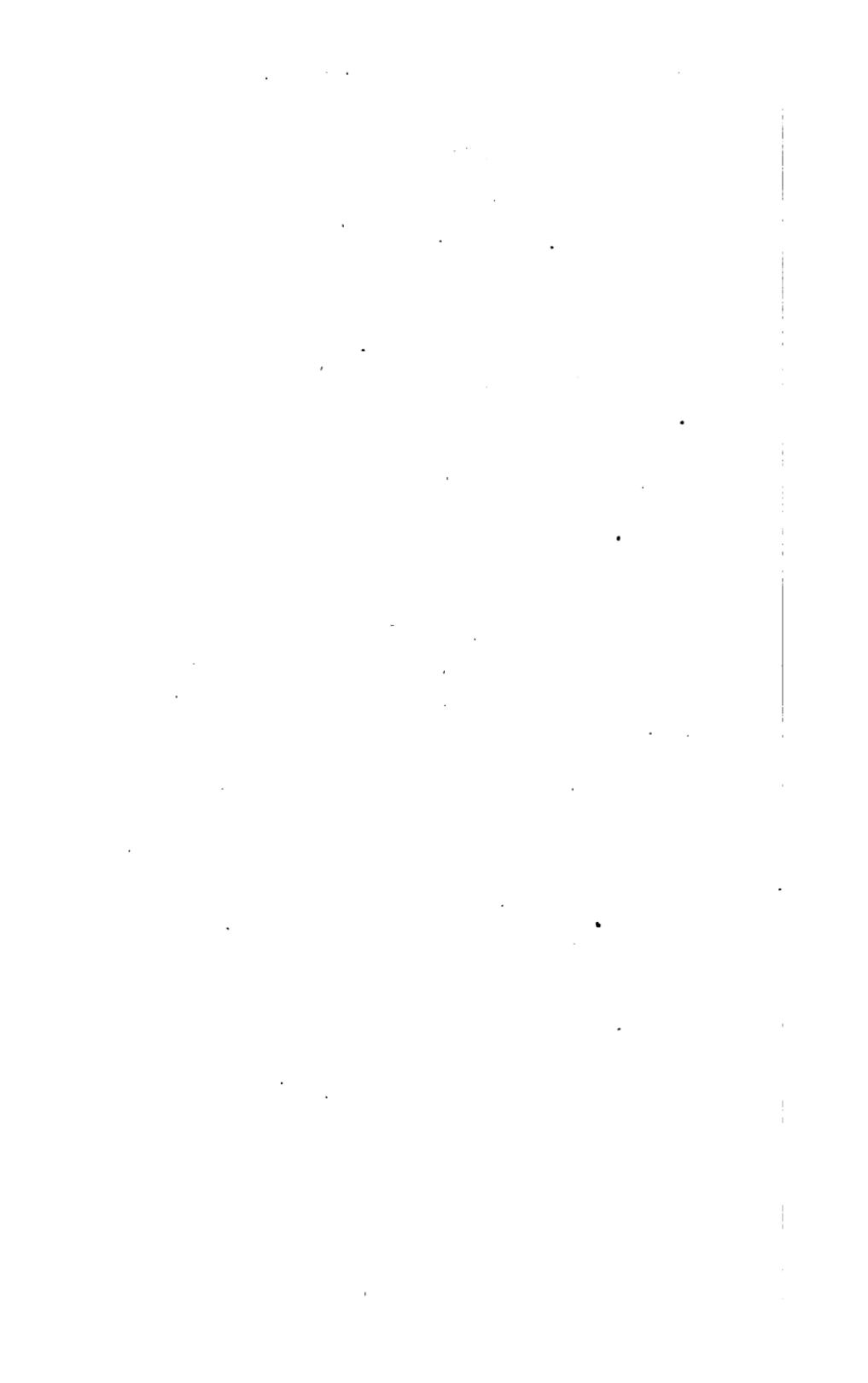


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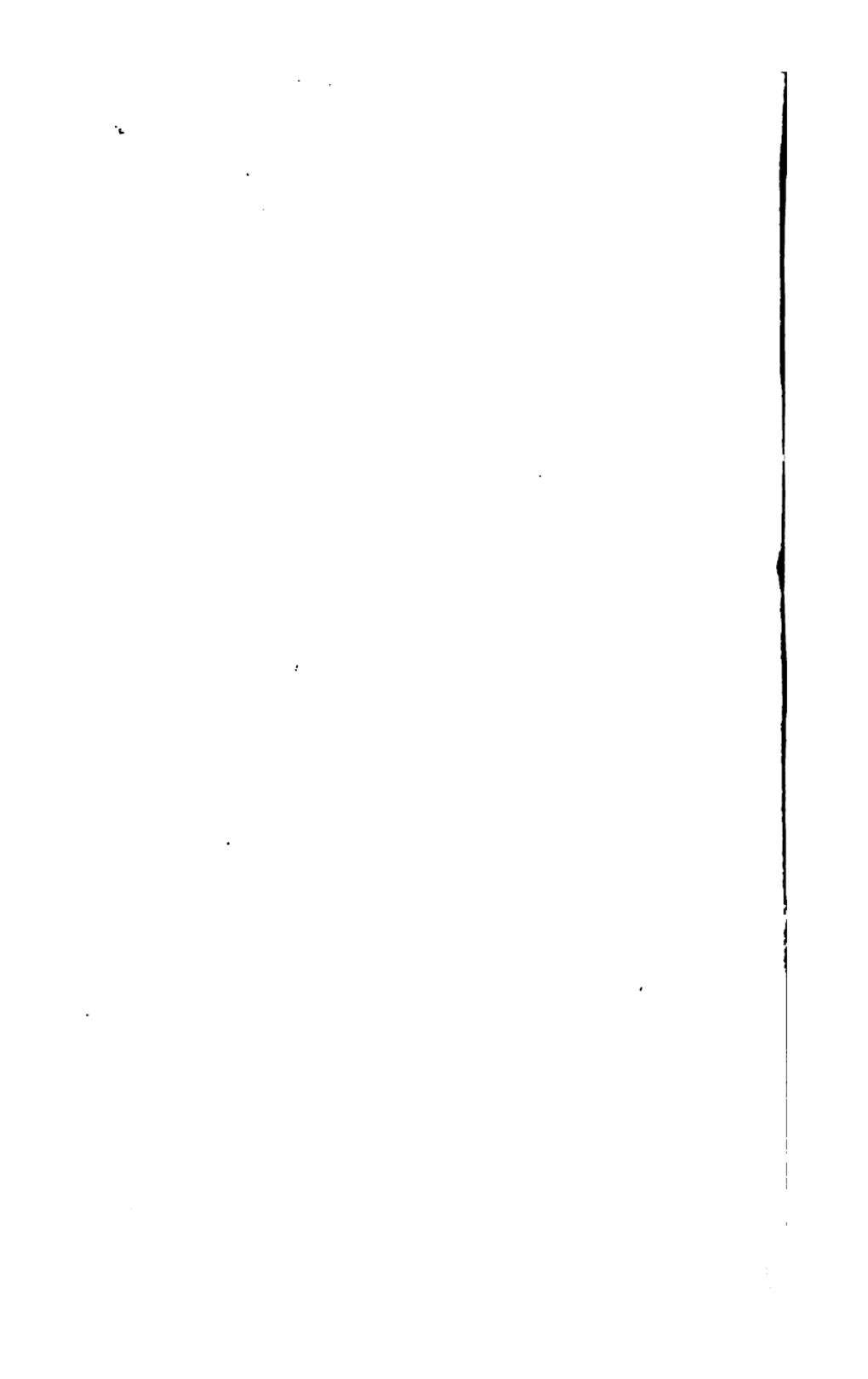
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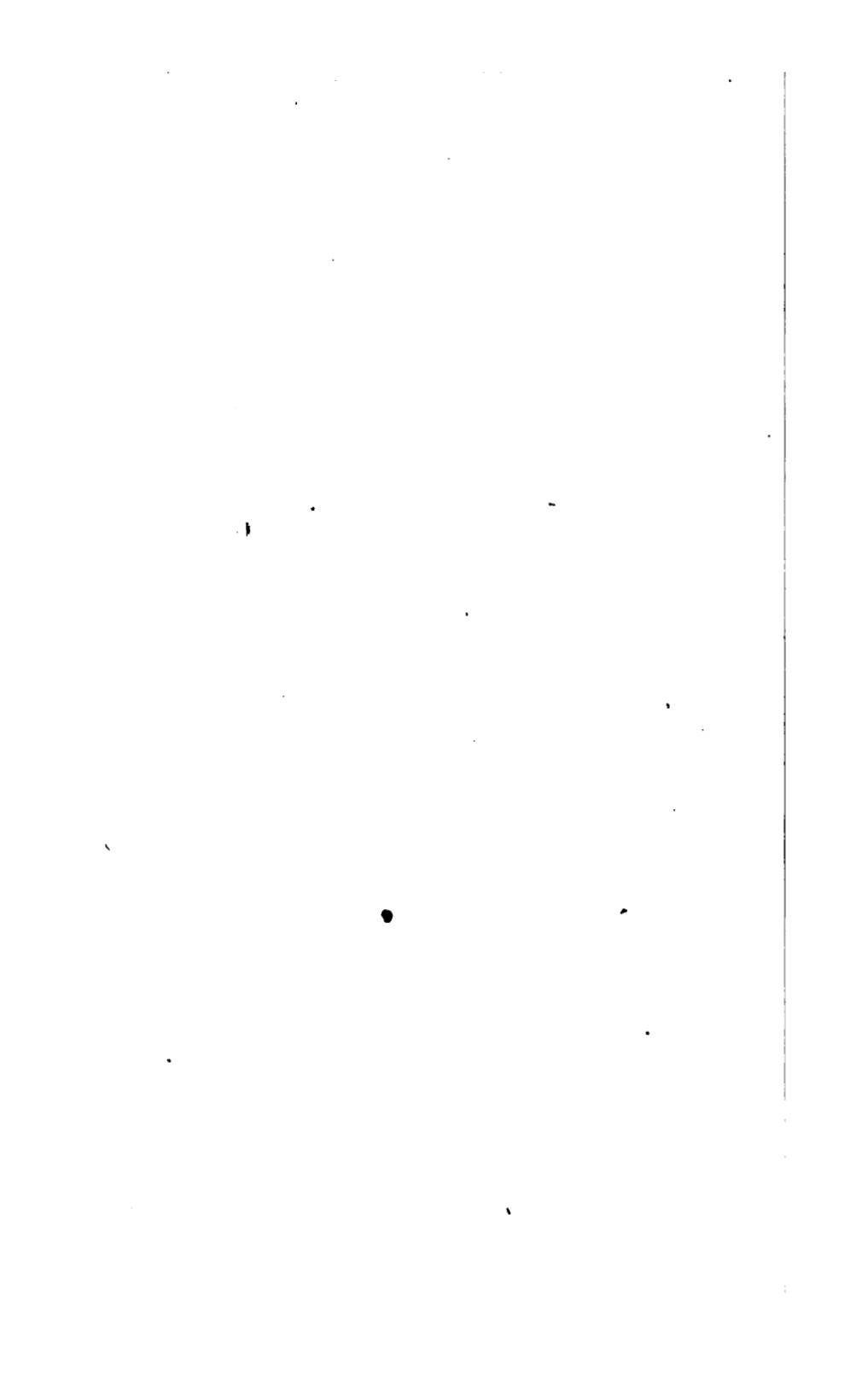




This is the first edition of
Dr. Oliver's "Puritanical Contingencies
of Doom" - it contains some matter
not given in the larger and
subsequent editions.



ECCLESIASTICAL ANTIQUITIES
or
DEVON AND CORNWALL.



~~ECCLESIASTICAL~~
ANTIQUITIES OF DEVON:
BEING
O B S E R V A T I O N S
ON MANY
CHURCHES IN DEVONSHIRE,
ORIGINALY PUBLISHED IN
THE EXETER AND PLYMOUTH GAZETTE:
WITH A LETTER
ON THE PRESERVATION AND RESTORATION
OF OUR CHURCHES.

EXETER:

PRINTED BY E. WOOLMER, GAZETTE-OFFICE,

1828.

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Great fund

THIS Volume is the joint production of two Gentlemen who have for some time been devoting their attention to the Antiquities of this County. The articles signed **CURIOSUS** are by the Rev. **GEORGE OLIVER**, of Exeter. The Introduction, and the remainder of the volume, are by the Rev. **J. P. JONES**, of North Bovey. These notices originally appeared in the **EXETER AND PLYMOUTH GAZETTE**, and I have been induced to publish them in a volume, at the request of several persons, who were anxious that they should be preserved in a less perishable form than the columns of a Newspaper. I am happy to say, that I have reason to believe the Authors are still pursuing their researches, and that the public will be further benefitted by their labours.

EDITOR.

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INTRODUCTION.

AN Enquiry into the origin and the various changes, which our Parochial Churches have undergone, cannot fail to be interesting, at a time when every department of our national antiquities is so diligently investigated. The following observations, though brief, may be found an useful accompaniment to the subjoined notices of the Ecclesiastical Antiquities of Devon.

The early Churches, erected during the gradual introduction of Christianity into our Island, were, probably, a few instances excepted, but mean and insignificant buildings; they are said for the most part to have been composed of wood, and they had gradually disappeared before the Norman Conquest. The ravages of the Danes, which frequently spread from one extremity of the country to the other, were principally instrumental in their overthrow; and our early historians record with feelings of deep commiseration, the destruction of Abbeys and Churches, which more particularly excited the fury and cupidity of these heathen invaders. The Saxon Churches,

of which a few specimens still remain, were low and irregular in their construction; the pillars were round and massive; the arches were circular, and adorned with rude ornaments; the windows admitted but little light. In the larger buildings, their substantial towers, for example, which from the strength of their masonry have defied the attacks of time, present ranges of circular arches, intersecting each other, affording the best development of the origin of the pointed arch, which ultimately led to a new, enlarged, and more beautiful style of Ecclesiastical Architecture.

It is not necessary here to dilate on the origin of the pointed style; the subject has been exhausted by the diligent enquiries of our most distinguished antiquaries; and it may be only necessary to observe, that late in the reign of HENRY II. it began to be adopted. The lancet window and the narrow nave, a deficiency of ornament, but a severe and chastened style throughout the whole building, distinguish the Churches which were erected during the latter part of the 12th, the whole of the 13th, and the commencement of the 14th century.

The splendid reign of EDWARD III. is an important era with respect to architecture. The munificence and genius of WILLIAM OF WYKEHAM, supported by royal patronage, and assisted by a concurrent spirit which then most honourably pervaded the great body of our Ecclesiastical Dignitaries, raised new edifices for religious worship, on a scale of greater magnificence than had before been witnessed, and adorned with such a profusion of beautiful ornaments, that no succeeding age, even with all the assistance of modern art and science, can rival these fabrics; they were built for eternity, and they have nobly

withstood the fury of the elements, the revolution of opinions, and the ruthless violations of man. The earlier Churches had now, through age, and in many instances, perhaps even from the imperfections of the buildings themselves, gradually fallen into decay; an increase of population likewise demanded more spacious temples; and whilst we find that the greater part of our ecclesiastical edifices were rebuilt or extensively repaired during the 14th and 15th centuries, we can observe the introduction of a new style, founded indeed on the one which preceded it, but more adapted to the enlarged views of improvement, and the accumulation of wealth, with which the revival of learning amongst the western nations of Europe was ushered in. The striking characteristics of this style can be shortly enumerated—a lofty and spacious nave with side aisles and transept, and above all the obtuse arch; the windows were large, divided by numerous mullions, and frequently filled with painted glass. To describe all the minutiae of the pointed style at this period would require a volume, and without plates would to a certain degree be unintelligible; it was the golden age of pointed architecture; it had then arrived at its greatest beauty and perfection; the elegant simplicity of the former age, though improved, had not been abandoned, and the gorgeous ornaments, which marked the decline of true taste in the succeeding age, were unknown.

The time from HENRY VI. to HENRY VIII. is the era when the florid style of architecture prevailed; it is marked by its elaborate tabernacle work and its pendant roofs; by screens on which were lavished the most elegant foliage and the most elaborate carved work; flying buttresses, pinnacles, crockets, and finials, appeared in

every department of the building ; niches filled with statues were placed over the windows and doorways ; and a profusion of heraldic ornaments illustrated the shrines and tombs of distinguished prelates and warriors. Though of a character less chaste and not conceived in such good taste as the specimens which remain of the preceding century, yet the flattened arched window, admitting so much light—the gorgeous tracery—the rich tabernacle work—and the profusion of armorial bearings, scattered amidst an infinite variety of graceful and beautiful ornaments—give to the structures of this age an imposing effect. But in proportion as on the larger buildings expense was lavished with a liberal hand, the smaller edifices and churches in remote situations were neglected—yet we frequently observe in places where we should hardly expect to find them, many elegant and interesting remains of the taste of our forefathers ; and notwithstanding the ravages effected at the Reformation and great Rebellion—notwithstanding the tasteless repairs which churchwardens are so liberal in bestowing, we can still look on our Churches with satisfaction, and in almost every one of them can discern something dignified or interesting—some memorials to illustrate the history and antiquities of our country, connected as they are with every associated feeling relative to the piety and taste of our ancestors.

The greater part of our Devonshire Churches were rebuilt during the 15th century ; the Chancels are frequently of an earlier date, and a person versed in Gothic architecture can easily distinguish the respective ages when the building was completed. There is this striking difference between Grecian and Gothic architecture, that

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as in the temples of the former we ascend by a flight of steps to the entrance, in the latter there is now a descent to the pavement; the gradual accumulation of soil on the outside, around the walls of our Churches, caused in part by the anxiety of persons to be interred as near as possible to the sacred edifice, has during the lapse of centuries been fatal to the stability of the fabric. In many instances I have observed that the earth has reached up to the windows, and the interior has consequently become so damp that the monuments and other ornaments along the walls have fallen down from a state of decay, and the frequent whitewashings have obscured the beauty of the architecture. The first point, in the preservation of our Churches, is to remove every cause by which damp is occasioned; this can only be brought about by digging drains on the outside, and by the removal of the earth; in many instances difficulties attend the execution of such a plan, as relatives object to the removal of bodies there deposited, and the right of a burial place has in many instances been long established. Every other motive ought, however, to give way, when compared with the preservation of the Church, and at least no graves ought to be formed within a certain distance from the walls. A free current of air, by means of open casements in the opposite windows, tends to keep the walls dry, and during the greater part of the year the windows should be open. All this can be done at a trifling expense.

I must now offer a few remarks respecting the interior. It is in numerous instances a most disgusting sight to observe the state of neglect, in which many country Churches are kept. The walls are dirty, the windows

broken, or partly blocked up, the pavement uneven, the seats, and frequently the pulpit, in a state of decay. It is the duty of every Clergyman to insist on his church being not merely in a state of repair, just to satisfy the Rural Dean at his annual visit, but personally to inspect every minute alteration, and to prevent such repairs as are inelegant or injudicious. Such ancient fabrics are in need of frequent alteration ; churchwardens know nothing of architecture, and in some instances look on the church with a jealous eye, as an object of unnecessary expense ; to the Clergyman therefore devolves the important duty of watching over the preservation of the Church with a parental affection, and of directing by his superior knowledge whatever repairs may be necessary for its preservation. At the annual court of the Archdeacon he can always present the dilapidations, and obtain an immediate order for all necessary repairs ; in many parishes particular funds are set aside for the reparation of Churches, and which should be applied to the purposes for which they were originally given, and not suffered to merge into the parish accounts. I must unwillingly make here one remark ; the Clergy are themselves too frequently unacquainted with the principles of Gothic architecture, and they sanction many of the tasteless alterations which are continually disfiguring our Churches ; the screens are pulled down, the painted glass removed from the windows, and galleries supported by Grecian pillars are erected under the fostering sanction of a well meaning but ignorant Clergyman. A little attention and study would easily rectify all this. Many works have been lately published in which the principles of Gothic architecture have been clearly developed, and

I would particularly recommend an excellent work on the subject, published by Mr. JOHN KENDALL, of EXETER, and which I consider to be the best introduction ever presented to the public in illustration of Gothic architecture, as applied to practice; the plates are beautifully executed, and the specimens are selected from the Cathedral of Exeter—that splendid monument of the taste and genius of our ancestors. Mr. KENDALL's work is cheap, and neither long nor tedious.

A century had hardly elapsed from the time when the greater part of our Ecclesiastical Structures were rebuilt, when that brute HENRY VIII. and his minion CROMWELL began their work of spoliation, regardless of all laws human and divine. The rood lofts were pulled down, the screens were shaken, the rich tabernacle work inclosing the shrines and chancels was for the most part removed, and the more sacred portions of the edifice were thrown open to the public. A great number of chantries and chapels were altogether destroyed, or applied to every purpose of profanation. The puritanic Iconoclasts of the next century nearly completed what the reformers had begun; which, combined with the neglect and bad taste so generally prevalent during the last century, have reduced the greater part of our Churches to a miserable state of dilapidation. Our Churches were built for the celebration of those magnificent ceremonies of the Roman Catholic Church, at a time when the genius of our Clergy was more particularly directed to the erection of Temples, suited to the sublime ideas which were then connected with the performance of religious worship. The wealth, accumulated by the Church during the middle ages, afforded that patronage

to the Arts, which can alone bring them to any point of perfection. The Reformers adopted a more simple form of worship, and rejected the greater part of the gorgeous appendages that adhered to the Mother Church ; the exasperation of religious opinions, and the fury of theological controversies, were frequently wreaked on the unoffending edifices, then considered as the abodes of idolatry ; every feeling for the beauties of art was carefully stifled, and the result was, the mutilation, and too frequently the destruction of those perfect monuments of art and genius erected during the middle ages.

We are now fortunately living in enlightened times, where Sectarian feelings are gradually dying away, and a Protestant may be allowed to look with satisfaction on an edifice erected by his Roman Catholic ancestors, without any danger of having his faith perverted ; at least it is now generally allowed that the architectural remains we still possess should be carefully preserved, and that the necessary restorations should be in unison with the original fabric.

The reparation of the windows is a point of great consequence ; the original form of the mullions, drip-stones, buttresses, &c. should be carefully preserved, and if a window is in such a state of decay, as to render it necessary to be removed altogether, it should be restored with every possible exactness. Nothing can appear more discordant than the range of windows in some Churches, where the dissimilarity is so striking as to render the outer appearance of the Church a mass of incongruity ; and it is sometimes almost impossible to come to any conclusion respecting the age of the building. The general removal of the painted glass, so universally per-

mitted, is a subject of deep regret; stuck fragments, when removed from their original situation, are of little value; but when permitted to remain, they are so entirely in unison with the edifice, as to throw great light on the antiquities of the particular Church in which they are placed; and the armonial bearings especially are of great use in determining the descent of property, and other subjects of general interest connected with the parish. The screens, fonts, and other ornamental work should be most religiously preserved. Many of the most beautiful screens have been entirely removed within a few years, by the order of the Churchwardens, for the avowed purpose of beautifying the Church. It should be clearly understood that the Churchwardens have no power of ordering any such alterations; that power is vested in superior hands. It is, however, astonishing how any Clergyman can permit such a needless violation in his Church. In many cases, beautiful tracery work has been discovered under a load of plaster and whitewash: very lately the pillars of the Church of SOUTH TAWTON were scraped, and the capitals were found to be adorned with elegant work; and a window has been recently restored with great taste in the Chapel of NEWTON BUSHALL. It would likewise be a great improvement, if the sentences, frequently so ill selected and surrounded with stuck gaudy colours, were obliterated from the walls. Tombs present so much that is interesting as relics of art and memorials of history, that their preservation ought more particularly to be attended to. The reparation of monuments belongs to the descendants of the deceased; such relatives may be extinct, but certainly a few occasional repairs might be effected without any great expense being incurred, and

INTRODUCTION.

when a Church is kept in a dry state, these monuments will last for many centuries uninjured. The modern pews of different heights and sizes are a great deformity; it was never intended in places of public worship, that a certain class of persons should be shut in with high partitions, to talk or to sleep unobserved by the rest of the congregation; the old open seats are best fitted to display the beauties of the Church, as well as to accommodate the public. To repair an old Church in such a manner, that the alterations shall accord with the original style of the building, requires great judgment and care. The general attention now paid to Gothic Architecture holds out some hope that the assistance of able architects will be called in, and their plans and suggestions attended to. A beautiful specimen of what modern art can effect may be seen in HACCOMBE Church, where amidst tombs of singular interest, an altar-piece, screen, and pulpit have been erected by MR. KENDALL, through the liberality of SIR HENRY CAREW, Bart. and they afford an excellent model for imitation, if indeed sufficient funds can be procured. In connexion with these remarks, I cannot omit mentioning the exertions of one individual, to preserve our Churches from decay, and to restore them with taste and elegance: the Rev. R. H. FROUDE, Archdeacon of TOTNESS, since his appointment to his office, has been unwearied in the performance of his duties; he has personally visited every Church in his Archdeaconry, all necessary repairs have been enforced, and ground plans have been taken; he has, through his influence, prevented many tasteless alterations, and has given every assistance when applied to on the subject.

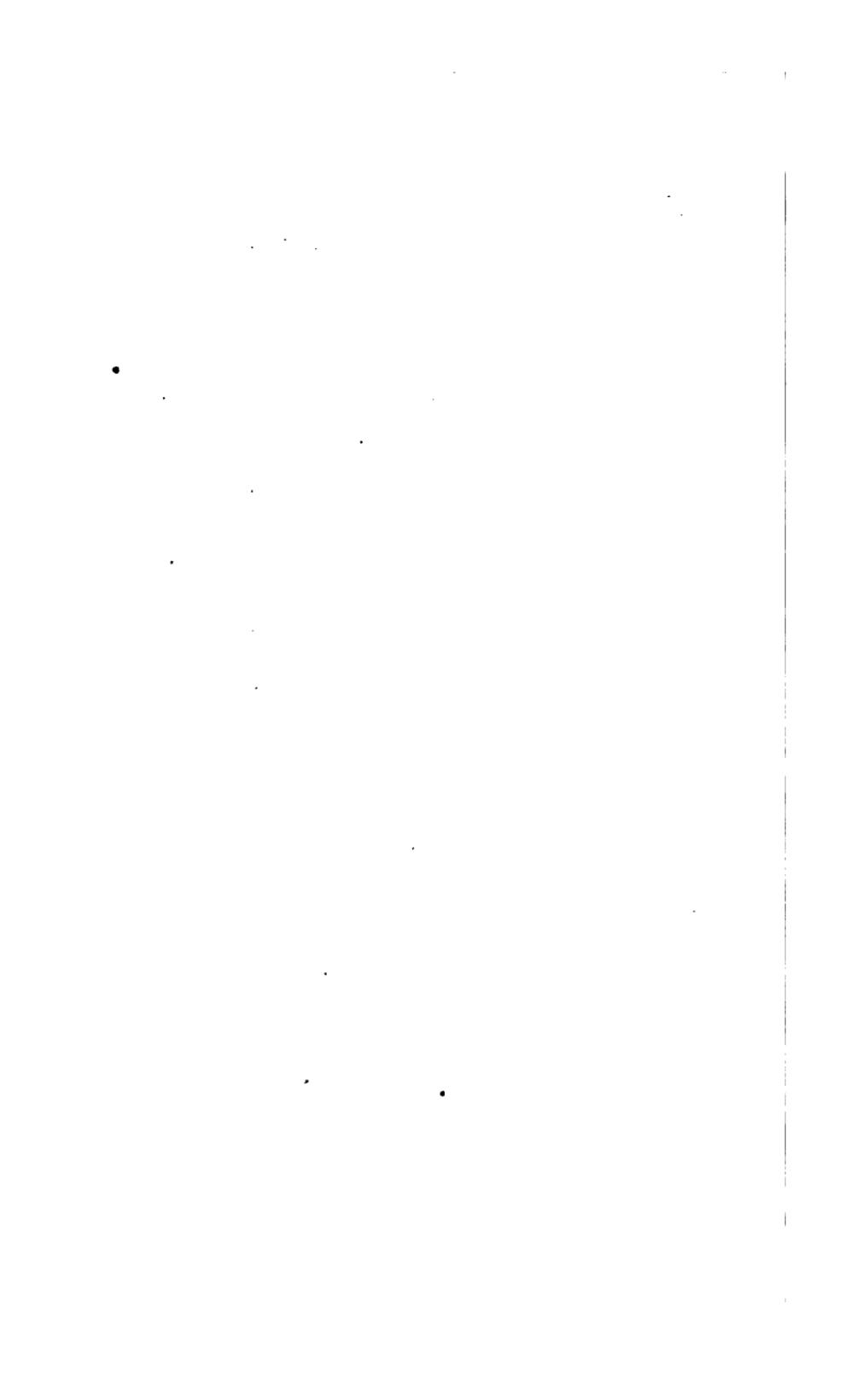
There is one mode of decoration for Churches, at once

so important and appropriate, and if generally adopted will tend so powerfully to promote the Fine Arts, and to encourage native genius, that a more particular attention to the subject will, I hope, be of service. The Fine Arts are so closely connected, that when encouragement is afforded to one branch, the others receive proportional improvement. A magnificent building, conceived with taste and executed with judgment, will receive a great addition to the interest it otherwise inspires, if decorated with paintings and statues. The finest productions of the painter and the sculptor can no where be seen with so much effect as in a building, where an attempt has been made to give to ideas at once sublime and beautiful "a local habitation and a name." From hence it follows that Churches are the best receptacles for those master pieces of art, which are amongst the noblest productions of the human mind, and are destined frequently to survive almost every other memorial of national greatness and glory. The powers of the sculptor may be displayed in monumental tombs, and the efforts of the painter may adorn an altar piece, without any fear that superstition may be engendered, or that religion may be corrupted. Whatever tends to purify the taste and to exalt the ideas must be productive of moral good; and in an age of high civilization, it is perfectly fruitless to make any attempt to repress the feelings of sympathy and attachment with which the human mind will be impressed in the contemplation of those stupendous efforts of genius, produced by the kindred arts of Architecture, Painting, and Sculpture. The erection of Monuments to departed worth has indeed met with but little opposition; the wish to perpetuate the fame of those persons who have distinguished them-

selves by their talents, rank, or virtues, has been general in all ages, and one principal mode of recollection has been intrusted to those, who "*vivos ducent de marmore vultus*," and in some of our national mausolea, we have of late years had rather to regret the tasteless blocks of marble which have been put up, than to complain of their paucity; in that point, however, we are improving. With painting it has been different; and strange to relate, great opposition has been presented to the placing of altar pieces in our Churches. The inferiority of our historical school of painting may be principally attributed to this unfortunate prepossession. The great masters of the Italian and Flemish schools were induced by liberal patronage, to paint their finest pictures for the Conventual and Cathedral Churches; they were certain in that case of possessing a perpetuity of fame. The pictures, according to all human probability, would never be removed from the sanctuary, and a continued influx of worshippers would appreciate the genius of the artist. With every facility at present for the same mode of patronage in this country, we find that altar pieces are but seldom erected. It is generally understood that when Sir JOSHUA REYNOLDS and the ROYAL ACADEMY proposed to adorn the walls of St. PAUL's with the efforts of their art, Bishop PORTERUS strenuously and successfully opposed this enlightened proposition, and our national school of painting has in consequence been thrown back for at least a century. It is a subject of deep regret, that the opinion of Bishop PORTERUS should have been taken. Though a prelate of great worth and piety, he had no knowledge of art, nor was he endowed with the splendid talents, or magnificent views of a MYERHAM or a WAYNFLETE; his

opinion ought not therefore to have been decisive on such a subject. A different sentiment now fortunately prevails, and no opposition has been offered to the placing of altar-pieces in many of our Churches ; their general adoption will be of greater service in encouraging our native artists, than any other mode either of public or private patronage. Our Established Church is the only Protestant Body in the kingdom capable of giving any adequate patronage to the Arts. The other sects have not the necessary funds ; their mode of worship is more simple, and they are satisfied with their ugly square Chapels and bare whitewashed walls. Our national edifices would be much improved by a judicious adoption of paintings, and we might hope in a few years to rival the antient schools to which we now look up for imitation, for they owe their superiority principally to the more extended and liberal patronage they experienced. This County can boast at present of several most excellent historical painters, and their talents cannot be called into action with greater effect than by adorning our Churches. We ought to patronize native genius—it is our bounden duty to foster the plants our own soil has produced, and to place within our Churches those monuments of Art, which reflect honor on the patronage capable of appreciating the efforts of genius.

J. P. J.



Ecclesiastical Antiquities of Devon.

No. I.

KENTON CHURCH.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXETER AND PLYMOUTH
GAZETTE.

ON Wednesday the 14th July, 1824, I visited the "tight godly church" (as Leland* calls it) of *All-Saints*, at Kenton. It was probably erected in the reign of King Edward III. William Sleghe, of Kenton, in his will, (penes Majorem & Com. Exon) bearing date 26th May 1379, desired to be buried in the aisle which he had newly erected there, "in ea quam ego ibidem de novo construxi." The total length of the fabric is 140 feet; the breadth of the nave and aisles is 42 feet; the height of the tower is 100 feet; this tower was formerly adorned with 6 statues, 4 of which,

* Vol. 3, Itinerary, p. 35.

under the pinnacles, have hitherto defied the approach of Iconoclasts. The four that graced the south porch have long since disappeared.

On entering the Church itself, I was agreeably struck with the correctness of the proportions,—with the beautiful style of the windows,—with the elaborate sculpture of the capitals of the seven arches on either side,—and with the general appearance of the structure. The *pulpit* has been exquisitely carved; but is disfigured with patch-work, and fragments of the back part of the screen. Formerly its sides contained statues. Round the entrance gates of the chancel, I observed the sculptured figures of the twelve Apostles, and on the pannels below the open work of the gorgeous *screen*, through the entire length, are preserved the painted figures of Saints, with numerous labels, which I shall attempt to explain.

Beginning at the North side, I observed—

1. St. Apollonia, Virgin and Martyr, with a tooth at the end of a pair of pincers, in allusion to the legend of her teeth being beaten out.
2. St. Agnes, Virgin and Martyr, with a lamb.
3. A female Saint, with a guitar and book. Qu. St. Cecily?
4. St. Helena, with the Latin cross.
5. St. Anthony of Egypt, with the pig.
6. St. George treading on a Dragon. The Shield Argent, a cross Quarterly, Gulea.
7. St. Edmund, King and Martyr, with a quiver of arrows.
8. A man holding a sceptre, and wearing a plume of white feathers.

Then commences the Apostles' Creed in pannels. Before

each article, as supposed* to be dictated by an Apostle, the painter has introduced one of the ancient prophets, bearing a label referring to the article. The prophetic words are not accurately transcribed from the Vulgate in some cases. For the benefit of your readers I shall omit the abbreviations.

- { 1. *Jeremiah*, with a label, " *Patrem vocabis me.*" chapter iii. verse 19.
- { 2. *St. Peter*, " *Credo in Deum Patrem Omnipotentem Creatorem.*"
- { 3. *Daniel*, " *Filius hominis venit.*" vii. 13.
- { 4. *St. Andrew*, " *Et in Iesum Christum filium ejus unicum.*"
- { 5. *Isaiah*, " *Ecce Virgo concipiet Filium.*" vii. 14.
- { 6. *St. James the Great*, " *Qui conceptus est de Spiritu Sancto, natus ex Maria virgine.*"
- { 7. *Zachariah*, " *Tunc videbant quem confiserunt.*" xii. 10.
- { 8. *St. John*, " *Passus est sub Pontio Pilato, crucifixus, mortuus, et sepultus.*"
- { 9. *Osee*, " *Morsus tuus ero, Inferne. Et in die tertia suscitabit.*" xiii. 14.—vi. 2.
- { 10. *St. Thomas*, " *Descendit ad inferos, tertia die resurrexit.*"
- { 11. *Amos*, " *Qui adificat in calo ascensionem quam.*" ix. 6.
- { 12. *St. James the Less*, " *Ascendit ad caelos, sed sit ad dexteram Patris.*"

* I say *supposed*; for though some ancient writers assert that the Apostles before their dispersion to preach the gospel did individually contribute an article to the Creed which goes by their name, yet it is simply a matter of opinion. See St. Augustine in Sermone 115, de tempore. Ruffinus, in the explanation of the creed. St. Leo, letter 13, to the Empress Pulcheria.

- { 13. Joel, "*In valle Josaphat judicabit omnes gentes.*"
iii. 12.
- { 14. St. Philip, "*Inde venturus est judicare vivos et mortuos.*"
- { 15. Aggæus, "*Spiritus meus erit in medio vestrum.*"
ii. 6.
- { 16. St. Bartholomew, "*Credo in Spiritum Sanctum.*"
- { 17. Sophonias, "*Quæ est civitas gloriæ habitans in confidentia.*" ii. 15.
- { 18. St. Matthew, "*Sanctam Ecclesiam, Sanctorum communionem.*"
- { 19. Malachi, "*Et cum odio habueris dimitte.*" ii. 16.
- { 20. St. Simon, "*Remissionem Peccatorum.*"
- { 21. Ezekiel, "*Suscitabđ ——— tibi,*" an allusion,
as I take it, to the resurrection of the dry bones in the
37th chap. of that Prophet.
- { 22. St. Thadée, or Jude. "*Carmis Resurrectionem.*"
- { 23. Abdias, "*Et erit Domino regnum sempiternum.*"
i. 21.
- { 24. Matthias, "*Et vitam æternam.*" Amen.

After follow eight other figures.

1. St. Lawrence, with the gridiron.
2. St. Barbara, Virgin and Martyr, with a tower.
3. St. Stephen, holding a stone.
4. A female Saint, whose head has been very lately
daubed with paint.
5. The blessed Virgin crowned as Queen of Martyrs,
and bearing the sword. Luke ii. 35.
6. St. Mary Magdalen, with the Alabastrum.
7. St. Dorothy bearing flowers.
8. St. Catharine of Alexandria, holding a book, her neck
pierced through with a sword.

CURIOSUS.

No. II.

KENTON CHURCH.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXETER AND PLYMOUTH
GAZETTE.

A SECOND visit to Kenton has confirmed me in my admiration of its stately Church. What a contrast did it form with the squat, puffed-out, and staring novelty in West Teignmouth, which I had seen just before? I trust the people of Kenton will take an honest pride in the preservation of such an ornament to their parish, of such a model of architectural taste to the surrounding country—that they will duly respect that rubric in the Book of Common Prayer, “*The Chancels shall remain as they have done in times past,*” and will never suffer the hand of innovation to remove or disfigure their present magnificent SCREEN.

Adam de Lylle, or Lylborn, Vicar of Kenton, by will dated 10th Sept. 1406, left certain books, a surplice, and 40s. to this Church, with money for the parish poor; as also a Processionale (or a book containing the psalms, hymns, antiphons, and prayers, usually sung or said in processions) to the neighbouring church of Powderham.

The Church-house in this parish was formerly given, by whom or when I know not, for the maintenance of a Chantry Priest, *ad sustentationem Capellani celebrare in ecclesia parochiali de Kenton.* King Edward VI. on July 8, 1550, granted his house to Wm. Morrice and

Edward Izacke, Esquires, who sold it the next day to Giles Kaylway, of Berry Pomeroy, Esq. of whom Sir Peter Courtenay purchased it on the 26th of the following September. His son and heir, Carew Courtenay, Esq. on the 15th April, 1559, conveyed it to the feoffees of Kenton parish.

Mr. Lysons, p. 300, part 2, Devonshire, asserts that "the Rectory, Manor, and Great Tithes belong to the Dean and Chapter of *Windsor*, who are patrons to the vicarage." ... This must surely be a mistake for *Salisbury*, to which cathedral Kenton has been a Prebend at least from the reign of Henry II.* At the request of his brother Richard the Earl of Cornwall, Henry III, granted to the men of Kenton a market and fair on the feast of All Saints:†

CURIOSUS.

No. III.
ST. MARY MAJOR'S CHURCH, on ST. MARY THE MORE'S, EXETER.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXETER AND PLYMOUTH GAZETTE.

I BELIEVE this Church is so called, to distinguish it from the other Churches in Exeter, that are dedicated

* This appears from the confirmation of its possession by that Sovereign, whilst Thomas of Becket was Chancellor, about the year 1158.

[†] Was not John Halse, S. T. B. (educated at Exeter Col. Oxford, and afterwards Bishop of Lichfield and Coventry), native of Kenton Parish? See p. 105. 1. 2. Hist. and Antiq. Univ. Oxon.

to Our Lady, or to designate the superior extent of the parish. Its once lofty tower, perhaps coeval with the Conquest, was so remarkable that in some ancient deeds the church itself is intitled *Sanctæ Mariæ de Turre*. During a stormy night, in October, 1501, when the Princess Catharine of Arragon lodged at the Deanery, the weathercock on the summit of the tower so disturbed and alarmed her Highness, that it was ordered to be taken down. The spire, "a very decent and beautiful monument," (for it is so described in the Act Books of the Corporation) having fallen greatly into decay, it was agreed on 18th August, 1568, that to put it in substantial repair, the sum of £60 should, within the space of two years, be levied on the citizens at large. In another storm, A. D. 1580, the weathercock, which had been replaced, was blown off, "and not long after the whole steeple was pulled down also." (Hoker's MS.) The tower was considerably lowered in 1768.

When the celebrated Latimer visited Exeter, in June, 1534, "he preached," says Hoker, "to a very crowded audience: amongst his hearers was the Lady Margaret Douglas, the king's niece. Afterwards he preached in the *Charnel House*, which was then standing in St. Peter's cemetery, out of which house was a pulpit in the North wall towards the Churchyard. At this sermon the auditory was marvellous great and attentive. About the middle of this sermon, Thomas Carewe, Esq. being advertised, came to the same, and he not digesting it approached and drew near the pulpit, and then broached out his intemperate speeches against the preacher, calling him heretic, knave, and bade him come down, or else he swore he would pull him by the ears, and do 'to him' E

cannot tell what. But Latimer* proceeded and made an end of his sermon; but Mr. Carewe receiving small thanks, when the King was advertised thereof."

On the 16th August, 1692, the Mayor and Corporation very liberally bestowed three trees, out of Duryard wood, on the Church for repairs, "*and hanging up the bells in the tower, being all new cast.*"

Formerly some chapels must have been contiguous and dependent on the Church; for Bishop Quivil, in January 1283, instituted William de Newton "*ad vicariam Ecclesiae B. Marie Majoris Exon, tam ipsius Ecclesiae Beatae Mariae quam Capellarum eidem adjacentium.*"

I have seen Speke's grant to this Church, 7th January, 1268, of two shillings annuity, issuing from his house in Preston-street, Exeter, towards the expence of wax lights. In Agnes de Woodleigh's will, bearing date March, 1348, mention is made of the altar of St. Thomas the Martyr, with a provision for a perpetual obit. Andrew Lapfiod,† a Rector of the Church, by his will in 1372, was a benefactor of four pounds, and an embossed silver cup. Robert Lingham, another of its rectors, desires, in his will, 6th March, 1427, to be buried before the altar of St. Appol-

*As a proof of the coarse and bitter intolerance of the times, this very Latimer, in his public disputation with John Forrest the Franciscan, was clamorous for sending his opponent to the stake. Let him be burnt—let him be burnt. "Comburatur, comburatur," was his cry. See Hist. Minor F. F. Minorum, by Francis Davenport, p. 42. fol. 1665. Duaci.

† Folio 36 of Register of St. John's Hospital are memorandums transcribed from St. Sidwell's Missal, A. D. 1356. Amongst others, A. D. 1372, this Andrew Lapfiod "dedit et legavit Custodi Luminis Sce. Sativole 11 sullones terre jacentes retro Ecclesiam."

lonia, in the belfry of blessed Mary Major, and leaves 40s. for the repair of the tower.

The nave of the present fabric is very respectable, and may have been erected in the reign of King Edward III. The sculptured representation of St. Laurence's martyrdom, on the outward wall of the Chancel, was probably fixed there at a comparatively recent period. No part of the church was named after St. Laurence. I cannot close my remarks on the church without commanding the parishioners for their attention to the fabric.

CURIOSUS.

No. IV.

CHUDLEIGH.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXETER AND PLYMOUTH GAZETTE.

THE first mention that I find of *Chudleigh*, as belonging to the See of Exeter, is in a deed of Bishop Bartholomew (between the years 1161 and 1184) wherein he grants the profits arising from the bark of his woods there, to the Leper-house of St. Mary Magdalene, in Exeter.

The Church of Chudleigh forms the subject of a deed of John, Bishop of Exeter, between the years 1186 and 1191.

The Parish Church, under the patronage of St. Martin, though at various times since partially altered, was dedi-

cated by Bp. Bronescombe* on the 6th November, 1259. It now consists of a Chancel, Nave, South Aisle, North Transept, and a Tower, which contains six harmonious bells. The greatest length of the Edifice in the interior, as we found by actual measurement, is 128 feet, and the greatest breadth 56 feet. In the South Aisle stood formerly the Altar of the Virgin Mary, before which Thomas Taylor, a Canon of Crediton Church, desired by his last will and testament to be buried. For the use of the said altar he bequeathed a silver chalice. The will, proved 15th December, 1452, may be seen in Bishop Lacy's Register.

In the North Aisle, commonly called Hunt's Aisle, I observed the Arms of Bishop Lacy let into the East wall, viz. three Shrovetter's heads erased. This Venerable Prelate died at Chudleigh Palace† 18th September, 1455.

Your readers are aware that the Rectory of Chudleigh was annexed to the Precentorship of Exeter Cathedral by Bp. Quivil, on 8th July 1282.‡ The Precentor was also provided with a house and certain lands at Ugbrooke, in this parish, by the liberality of the Bishops. "Precentor

* His Register shews how numerous were the Churches which he dedicated. In a single year (1268) he dedicated no less than forty in Devon and Cornwall.

† This Palace was a favourite Residence of our Bishops, before the Reformation. In its Episcopal Chapel, dedicated to St. Michael, many Ordinations were holden.

‡ From folio 239, vol 1, Stafford's Register, we learn that this Prelate confirmed a former injunction of Bishop Grandison, that two thirds of the expences of repairing the Chancel, were to be defrayed by the Precentor; the other third by the Vicar for the time being.

N. B. The Perpetuity of this Rectory was granted by Charles II. on 14th April 1673, to Thos. Lord Clifford, Baron of Chudleigh, and his heirs male, paying £42 per annum to the Precentor.

habet ex concessione predecessorum nostrorum suo officio unitas Ecclesias de Paynton & Chuddelegh, cum Maneo et Terris apud Ugbroke." 2d. Vol. Veysey's Reg. On 7th January, 3d year of his reign, K. Edward VI. granted a licence under the Great Seal, to Bp. Veysey, to alienate "totum illum Burgum suum de Chudleigh, ac totum illud Manerium, Dominicum ac Parcum suum de Chudleigh," as also the Lime Rock, unto Thomas Brydges, Esq.

We read in the Register of Bishop Stapledon, that the Rental of the Manor to the See of Exeter in 1308, was £17 4s. 5*4d.*; that the Fulling Mill of the New Town of Chudleigh, *Molendinum fullaticum de novo Burgo de Chuddelegh*, paid 20s. per an.; that it was optional for the Bishop to receive from the Manor at Christmas, either the sum of twelve pence, or 24 woodcocks. This Prelate, with a view of increasing the prosperity of the *New Town* of Chudleigh, in the year 1309, procured for it of his Sovereign Edward II. a Market and Fair. Amongst other lands which he purchased towards the maintenance of his obit* as stated in his Ordinance, dated 2d March, 1321, we observe *Waddene*, lying in this parish, is enumerated. Bp. Lacy, already mentioned, on 27th March 1447, appointed his Valet, Edward Pyry, to be keeper of his park here, and Bailiff of the Manor of Chudleigh, with a salary of twelve pence a week.

On the 14th April, 1673, K. Charles II. confirmed to the Lord Treasurer Clifford, and his heirs male, the perpetuity of the Rectory of Chudleigh; but with the obligation of paying £42 per annum, to the Precentor of Exeter.

* See fol. 170 of his Register.

John Hunt, on 19th April, 1683, in consideration of £160 taken from the parish chest, conveyed the Advowson of Chudleigh to certain persons, who declared by deed of the same date, that the conveyance had been made to them in trust and confidence, that within four months after the avoidance of the Vicarage, they should publish on two several Sundays a notice for the meeting of the parishioners holding lands there rated at £5 per annum, and by the majority of them a Vicar was to be chosen and nominated. Pursuant to these conditions, on the death of the then Vicar, Rev. Edward Northmore, in Oct. 1687, Nicholas Battersby was instituted his successor on 10th Feb. following, on the presentation of John Coysh, John Cholwich, Giles Inglett, Christopher Hellier, John Langley, and James Rennell, trustees of the said advowson.

We are happy to learn that the Parochial Registers of Chudleigh are complete from the year 1558.

CURIOSUS.

No. V.

HEAVITREE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXETER AND PLYMOUTH GAZETTE.

THE Church of St. Michael, at Heavitree, was appropriated, we believe, to the Cathedral of Exeter by Pope Eugenius III. in the year 1152. The present

fabric measures 82 feet long by 43 broad* in the interior; but is much too small for so populous and wealthy a parish. It consists of a chancel, a nave communicating by four arches with a north and south aisle, and of a tower with four modern bells. On entering the south porch the eye rested on a fragment of an ancient grave-stone, "Hic jacet Joses Ford:" proceeding forward, another inscription presented itself—"Hic jacet Joses Vener qui obiit xvii die Julii Anno Domi millimo ccccxvii Cujus anime propicietur Deus."—Soon after, "Orate pro aia Dni Johis Legh Presbyteri."—"Hic jacet Hugo Legh qui obiit scndo die Augusti, Ano D^o M^o V^o xxxvi, cuj^o anime propicietur De^o Ame."—Two other fragments bore "Uphome et Alic. ux. et Elizabeth ux ej^o," and "Civis civitat. Exon, qui obiit viii die Sept." Instructive mementos of mortality, and of human forgetfulness!†

The great eastern window displays little symmetry with the rest of the fabric. It is comparatively modern. Indeed the chancel has experienced alterations; and if the attentive observer will examine the north side from the Church-yard, he will trace about 8 feet of the ancient wall, with a lancet window now blocked up.

Several years ago the Screen was removed: a part of it is still to be seen in the North Aisle, representing in panels

* On what authority does Mr. Polwhele, p. 23, state the Church to be 98 feet long and 65 feet wide.

† John de Burnham, Vicar of this Parish, in April 1283, granted to Henry de Colecote a house in Smythen-Street, Exeter, but with a rent charge to St. Mary Stepney Church, of 3d. annually, and a rose to himself, his heirs, or assigns, at Midsummer. The seal appendant to the deed penes Cust. Col. Pres. Vicar, is perfect. It represents the Virgin and Child, most gracefully formed: the inscription is MATER DEI MEMENTO MEI.

the legend of St. Dunstan and the Devil, of St. Agatha with a sword through her breasts, and of St. Catharine of Alexandria. In the spandril of the first arch of the North Aisle the Courtenay Arms are distinctly visible. We were not a little surprised and pleased at the boldness and sharpness of the carving of the Capitals of the Pillars and the Font, which Mr. Polwhele describes as clumsy, rude, and uncouth. We could wish that the workmanship of the Gallery, as also of the Altar-piece erected in the time of Bp. Offspring Blackall, between 1708 and 1716, was equally creditable. That the registers of baptism, marriages and burials of the parish, prior to the year 1653, are no longer extant, * is much to be regretted.

Our readers are aware that the churches of St. Sidwell and St. David are dependent on Heavitree. From time immemorial the manor of St. Sidwell belonged to the church of Exeter. The first mention that I have found of *St. David's Church* is in a mandate of Bp. Marshall, between 1194 and 1206. It occurs again in fol. 45, of Bronescombe's Register, Anno 1270, and in fol. 245, vol. 2, Stafford's Register, 28th March, 1401 : it was rebuilt in 1541, when Veysey was Bishop of Exeter.

We have often met with *St. Clement's Chapel* near the river Exe, and with *St. Eligius* or *Eloy's* (Mr. Polwhele calls it Elidius) near Wonford village. The former is mentioned in a Deed as early as the time of Simon de Apulia's Episcopate, between the years 1214 and 1223 : I

* They were probably lost during the sequestration of the Vicar, Rev. Wm. Banks. See p. 192, part of Walter's *Sufferings of the Clergy*.

believe it was disused in 1536, and dismantled in 1572. The latter is first mentioned in Bp. Brantynham's Register, on 1st April, 1387: at the instance of Henry Tirell and Jane his wife, that Bishop licensed the performance of divine worship, "in capella Sci Eligii infra mansionem eorundem de Woneford." It was 40 feet long, and 22 broad, with three very graceful lancet windows on either side, widely diverging in the interior. That excellent artist, Mr. John Kendall, has made a measured drawing of this interesting structure for Pitman Jones, Esq.

Within this parish stood the Chapel of *St. Anne** the history of which we cannot satisfactorily trace. We must say the same of the *Chapel at Livery Dole*, the first mention of which I find in a Deed of the 7th year of Edward the First's reign, 1st Aug. 1279. It was probably a *Chantry* supported principally by Doles or Alms, when Prayers were offered for the souls of the criminals executed here. The foundation of the present Alms-house is antedated a full century in p. 112 of the last edition of Risdon's Survey, and the merit of finishing this commendable work is ascribed to Sir Robert Dennis' son, Thomas. Prince, in his blundering style, assigns the honor of the foundation, p. 290 of Worthies of Devon, to Sir Robert's father, who had died thirty years before. Had these

* St. Anne's Chapel is mentioned, as also Livery Dole, in the Act of Parliament, A. 1437, concerning St. Sidwell's Fee. N. B. William Cudmore, of St. Sidwell's, weaver, on 18th August, 1698, broke into the Hospital or Chapel of St. Anne, over the orchard wall, and getting upon the top of one of the houses there, and thence proceeding to the chapel bell, by force and violence threw it to the ground. The Dean and Chapter, as Governors and Owners of the Chapel, brought an action for the trespass.

writers but taken the trouble to examine the monumental tablet over the entrance of the Almshouse, they would have discovered the truth :—

These Almshouses were
Founded by Sr Robt. Denis
Knight in March 1591
and finished by Sr. Thomas
Denis his Brother in 1594

At Michaelmas 1764, the late John Baring, Esq. purchased, for the sum of £850, the Messuage and Tenement, formerly called or known by the name of *Livery Dole*, but of late *Parkhouse*, consisting of a dwelling-house, a small garden, a barn, and two closes commonly known by the name of *Livery Dole Park*, and *Noble Mead*, containing about 12½ acres, lying and being partly in Heavitree, and partly in St. Leonard's parish.

A high chief rent of 1d. for and in respect of *Livery Dole* Hospital, is payable to the Lord of Heavitree Manor.

John Kelly, Esq. son of Oliver Kelly, Esq. the Lord of Heavitree, granted a spot of ground 11th Sept. 1516, for the erection of the Church-house.

Duck's Almshouse, in this parish, for 4 poor persons, was founded by Richard Duck, of Mount Radford, Esq. In 1589, he purchased the ground for the erection of the building, and conveyed the same to Trustees, by his deed, 25th Nov. 1603.

From John Hoker's MS. we learn that one Thomas Benet, A. M. a native of Cambridge, but settled at Great Torrington, as Schoolmaster, for about seven years before his death, was arrested for heresy in the Butcher's-row,

Exeter, A. D. 1531, and “soon after burnt at *Livery Dole*, then the accustomed place of execution.” The account of this tragical event was written by Hoker himself for Fox’s Book of Martyrs. We believe that the place of execution was removed the year following to Ringswell: as we read in the same MS. that “in 1532 John Wolthe-
man was executed as a traitor at *Ringswell*, who being given to blindly prophesying did interpret and apply them to the King.” The burying place at Ringswell was blest by Bishop Turbeville. Over the entrance gate is now legible the following inscription :

“ March 8, 1557. This place was bless’d by Lord James, Bishop, given by Mr. John Peter, then Mayor, inclosed by Mrs. Joan Tuckfield, late the wife of Mr. John Tuckfield, some time Mayor of Exeter.”

We say *now*, for the Norwich Tourist, who visited Exeter in the summer of 1635, transcribed an inscription thus:—

“ 5to Marcii 1557. This place was bless’d by the Lord Bishop, given by Mr. John Peter, then Mayor, inclosed by the honest Matron Joan Tuckfield, whose soule Lorde pardon.”—Landsdowne MSS. No. 213. 26.

CURIOSUS.

No. VI.
IDE, NEAR EXETER.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXETER AND PLYMOUTH
GAZETTE.

THE Church is dedicated to St. Ida, a lady of illustrious birth, and widow of the Lord Egbert, a special favourite of Charlemagne, King of France and Emperor of the West. Her boundless charities and sanctity of life made her be considered as a luminary of the infant church of Germany. Before the middle of the ninth century, she passed to everlasting rest, and her feast was kept on the 4th of September.

From time immemorial the Manor of Ide has belonged to the Church of Exeter. The parish is small, and its Church, embosomed amidst tufted trees, consists of a low Tower containing 4 bells, a Nave, and North Aisle. In length it measures in the inside about 68 feet, including the Tower; in breadth 27 feet. From the obtuse form of the Windows in the Nave, and from the portcullis and double rose in the bosses of the vaulting, we infer that it was built in the reign of Henry VII. The carving of the Screen is tolerable, but waits to be relieved of a burthen of blue paint, which Mr. Polwhele, however, seems to admire.* Every visitor must have remarked with un-

* "The Screen, blue and gold, shines in fresh colors," p. 103, Hist. Devon.

easiness, if not with terror, the declination of the five arches from the perpendicular line, especially if viewed from the gallery. Indeed it is high time to rebuild this tottering fabric; in its loss an antiquary can have little to regret.

The gallery seems to have been erected soon after the restoration of K. Charles II. In p. 103, *Hist. Devon*, Mr. Polwhele informs his readers, that the coats of arms in the front of the gallery, “chiefly of the *Bishops and Deans of Exeter*, were much defaced, till by Mr. Carrington’s care they were restored to their pristine honors.” !! We conceive the eleven armorial bearings to be as follows:—

1.—*Bampfylde*.—Or, on a bend gules, three mullets argent.

2.—*Hutchinson*.—Per pale gules and azure; in fess a lion rampant, arg. semee with 8 crosslets Or.

3.—Arms of *Cotton*.—Argent, a bend sable between three pellets.

4.—*Rev. James Carrington*.—Sable, a bend dexter argent, charged with three lozenges. S.

5.—*Dr. William Buller*.—The arms of Dean of Exeter, viz. Azure, a stag’s head caboched and ensigned with a cross pattee fitchy argent, impaled with those of his family, which are sable, on a cross argent quarterly pierced, 4 eaglets displayed of the first.

6.—*Dr. Joseph Hall*, Bishop of Exeter.—Sable, three talbots’ heads erased, argent.

7.—*Rev. William Cotton*, Precentor of Exeter.—Argent, on a saltier azure, a fleur de lis, Or, impaled with the family arms as above.

8.—*Dr. Robert Hall*, Treasurer of Exeter, and eldest son of Bishop Hall.—Gules, a saltier engrailed between 4 leopards heads, Or, impaled with the family arms.

9.— Azure, a cross flory argent between 4 mullets.—Or.

10.— Barry, in chief, Or, 2 billets gules; sable, 3 mullets argent. 3d as 1.—4th as 2; and 5th Or, 1 billet gules.

11.—*Ridgeway*.—Sable, two angels' wings conjoined, in fesse, argent.

During the Commonwealth, William Satterly, A. M. was ejected from the vicarage of Ide. He survived the restoration of his Sovereign above twenty years, and was buried at St. Sidwells. See p. 354, part 2, *Walker's Sufferings*. We are indebted to the Rev. Precentor BART-LAM, for the information, that the Registers of Baptisms begin 30th July, 1653; Burials, 6th Nov. 1653; and Marriages 13th January after.

The writer of the churchyard poetry must be a very humble votary of the Muses; but let the reader judge:—

TO A LADY AGED 70.

Thou dearest of all earthly Friends,
Thou gift of God to me;
Thy lovely face on earth *I ne'er*,
No never more shall see.

A PARENT TO HER CHILDREN

Farewell, my children most dear,
Weep not on me—the *Shepherds* fear
Prepare for death, that you may be
In glory to eternity.

TO AN INFANT.

Farewell, dear Babe, short was thy stay,
Thou looks' about and went thy way ;
Thy Angels' face we did but see
And soon we were deprived of thee.

With patience to her Fate she did submit,
And Murmured not at what—
The Lord thought Fit.

No. VII.

IDEFORD, FORMERLY YUDDEFORD, OR
EDDFORD.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXETER AND PLYMOUTH
GAZETTE.

MR. POLWHELE has hardly condescended to mention this parish, lying in the Deanery of Moreton and Hundred of Teignbridge. It is small, indeed, and consists of one manor only.

The Church is dedicated to the Blessed Virgin. To every observer it must be evident, that the Chancel is considerably more ancient than the Nave and North Aisle. In the East Window may be seen the arms of *Poulet*, sable, three swords in pile argent, the hilts or. About one third of the rich carved roof of the Nave has hitherto escaped the despoiling hand of innovators. The North

Aisle, connected with the Nave by two plain obtuse Arches, was probably erected in the reign of Henry VI. and may have been a *Chantry* founded by the *Arundells*, whose arms, argent, six swallows sable, appear in one of the windows. We learn from fol. 20 of Bishop Nevill's Register, that, in October 1463, an agreement was made between John Arundell, Esq. the Lord of a Moiety of Ideford Manor, and Sir William Paulet, Knt. the Lord of the other Moiety, that the parties should alternately present to the living. At the lower end of the Chantry stands the Baptismal Font. It is an octagon, ornamented with the quatrefoil. .

The Tower, 60 feet high, contains three bells, two of which have ancient Latin inscriptions; but I was not able to get round to decipher the whole. The communion plate belonging to this little Church is respectable. The large silver gilt flagon was the gift of a Lady Martyn, (Q. Agnes Cove, the Mother of Elizabeth, wife of the Lord Treasurer Clifford.) On the cover of the silver cup is engraved a double rose, with this inscription:—

“The Parish of Eddford, 1576.”

The earliest date of the Ideford Registers is 1543; but they are “in a very mutilated state.”

In the Church-yard is an altar tomb, to the memory of Humphry Borrington, Gent. who died in 1580, and left a charge of 20s. per annum, on his estate of Lower Hays, in Ideford, to be distributed every Good Friday, on his tomb, to the poor. He may have remembered the *doles* so very usually given at obits, and anniversaries by his Catholic ancestors. His bequest is faithfully complied with.

CURIOSUS.

No. VIII.

KENNE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXETER AND PLYMOUTH
GAZETTE.

THE Manor of Kenne was attached to the Barony of Oakhampton, I believe, by William the Conqueror. The first time that I meet with its *Church*, is in the reign of Stephen, when William de Avenel, the husband of Emma, second daughter of Baldwin de Brionis, granted it to Plympton Priory; but it was shortly after restored to the above-mentioned barony. For above 300 years previous to the Reformation, the Courtenays enjoyed its advowson. The last of the family but one, before that memorable epoch, who presented to the living, was Catharine, daughter of King Edward IV. and relict of Wm. Earl of Devon. She is described in Bishop Oldam's register, 21st Dec. 1517, as being Countess of Devon, and the daughter, sister, and aunt of Kings, "ad presentationem *Katharine, Comitissæ Devonie, Filie, Sororis, et Amitæ Regum.*" Her son Henry, created Marquess of Exeter, 18th June, 1525, experienced the usual fate which King Henry VIII. reserved for his favourites and nearest relations: he was attainted* on the last day of December, 1538, and

* A considerable share of the Marquess's possessions in Devon fell to Edward Seymour, Duke of Somerset. On 16th July, 1547, he obtained from his royal nephew the grant of the

beheaded on the 9th of the following January. Lord Herbert could not discover the particular offence of this accomplished and unfortunate Nobleman. Cardinal Pole attributes his fall to the hatred which his despotic Sovereign cherished against virtue and nobility: "*odium Tyranni in virtutem et nobilitatem:*" and unquestionably the history of his reign too well justifies this opinion.

The Church, dedicated to St. Andrew, is delightfully situated, and the ascent to it, by a flight of steps, gives it a commanding appearance. It consists of a Chancel, a Nave opening into a North and South Aisle by arches of very remote antiquity, and a substantial Belfry once containing 5 bells, one of which lies now in the loft in shattered fragments. Unless I mistake, the present Vestry was the ancient Courtenay Chantry, *Cantaria Capella Dni Hugonis de Courtenay apud Ken.* (fol. 82, Reg. Stapledon) *Cantariam Sci. Johis Evangelista in Manerio de Ken:* (fol. 96. vol. 3, Reg. Grandisson.)

On entering the Church I was agreeably surprised at seeing so many of the old and solid praying-benches, some of which are beautifully carved. In every respect they are better calculated to inspire devotion and a sense of humility in the presence of that Supreme Being, before whom all his creatures are equal, than towering and overgrown pews. And who will say that their simple form,

Manors of Plympton and Exminster, the town and castle of Plympton, and the hundreds of Plympton and Exminster. Six days later he had a further grant of Topsham Manor, with its fair. Whoever reads the Act of the Parliament held at Westminster 4th Nov. 3d year of Edward VI. and continued by prorogation till 4th Feb. following, will be astonished at the Duke's accumulation of property in Devonshire.

does not harmonize better with the fabric, than boxes of every shape and color?

The length of the inside of the Church to the belfry door is 72 feet; and including the belfry 88 feet: the breadth of the fabric is 36 feet and a half.

In the east window of the chancel I observed the Arms of King *Atheletan*. Per saltier gules and azure on a mound, a cross botony crowned, Or.

Arms of the *Kingdom of the East Angles*. Azure, three crowns Or.

Arms of Courtenay repeated.

Arms. Holland. Azure, a lion argent crowned, between six fleurs des lis argent.

The Screen seems to be an humble imitation of the one at *Kenton*. Unfortunately the greater part is blocked up with tasteless pews: we can trace, however, the figures of SS. Andrew, James, John, Thomas, and Lawrence. The portraits on the entrance doors of the Chancel may be intended for the four doctors of the Latin Church, St. Jerome as a Cardinal, SS. Ambrose and Augustine, and St. Gregory the Great. In the South Aisle the subjects are tolerably distinct, such as the Crucifixion of our Lord, the Blessed Virgin, with the label, *Ecce Ancilla Dni*, St. Sidel, with her head and scythe, the four Evangelists, St. Scholastica with her dove, the legendary story of a St. Veronica, St. Mary Magdalene* with the alabastrum, and St. Catharine of Alexandria with the sword and wheel.

In the north and in the South Aisle was formerly an

* Edward I. granted to Kenneford A.D. 1299, a fair for two days for the Festival of St. Mary Magdalen.

Altar. The Piscina* in the latter remains uninjured : and some stained glass contains the figure of St. Michael and the Dragon, SS. Mary Magdalene and Barbara, and the arms of Courtenay.

The Font we consider as singularly beautiful. It is of Purbeck Marble, square in form, supported in the centre by a solid circular column, surrounded in the angles by others of slender proportion. The sculpture is simple indeed : two sides of the Font bear six circular arches : the two other sides have semi-circles inverted.

Directing our observation to the Gallery, which judging from the arms of Bp. Cotton, was erected in the reign of James I. we counted 22 armorial bearings, some of which our imperfect knowledge of Heraldry will not entitle us to explain. Beginning with the south side we conceive the 4th panel to contain the Arms of Northmore ; 5, Bampfylde ; 6, Short, of Bickham ; 7, Clack, the late rector ; 8, Waltham, sable a chevron, between 3 suns, argent ; 9, Courtenay ; 10, Russells, as Earls of Bedford ; 11, Bourchiers, Earls of Bath ; 12, See of Exeter impaled with Cotton ; 13, Palks, of Haldon house ; 14, Ley, of Trehill ; 15, Prideaux, of Netherton, created baronets in 1622 ; 16, Prideaux.—N. B. The Prideaux family held the patronage of Kenne during the reign of Queen Elizabeth. 17, Hele ; 18, Reynells ; 19, Tothill ; 20, Fielding ; 21, Hunt, of Chudleigh ; 22, Oxenham.

In the spacious Churchyard we observed the base of the old cross, and a venerable yew tree, coeval perhaps with

* "Piscina a cornu Epistola quo ablutiones projiciebant. p. 273, Vol. 1, Cancellieri de Secretario Basilicæ Vaticanae."

the church itself. On the south side of the fabric, a great quantity of earth should be removed and the trench continued.

David Hensley (who had been admitted Rector of Kenne 25th April, 1533) purchased in 1552 of Giles Kaylwaye, Esq. and William Leonard, of Taunton, an estate in Kenne parish called *Lampland*, which the Courtenays may have originally granted to furnish lights for the Chantry. The purchase deed was enrolled in the Common Pleas at Easter term, anno sexto Edwardi VI. The said rector charged the estate with a perpetual annuity of 20s. to Grendon's Alms-house in Exeter.

About 140 acres in this parish are attached to the Prebend of *Carwell*, one of the four Prebends founded in the chapel of the B. V. Mary * in the Castle of Exeter.

The Registers of this parish (as I am informed by its worthy Rector, Rev. HENRY LEY, who has been most liberal in communicating information,) begin A. D. 1538. Those for baptisms and burials are complete to this date, but there is an interruption in the one for marriages from 1667 to 1695. It appears from the title page and the sameness of the style of writing, that a copy was made in 1598, of the preceding years, which forms the present Register for that time.

* Without sufficient consideration an assertion is occasionally hazarded that this prebendal chapel in Exeter Castle was exempted from Episcopal visitation. It is very certain, however, that Bp. Stapledon made his visitation of it in 19th January 1311—and that Bishop Lacy, on 26th Aug. 1438, issued a commission “*ad inquirendum de et super defectibus in Praebenda de Cutton.*”

No. IX.

ST. THOMAS'S CHURCH, NEAR EXETER.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXETER AND PLYMOUTH GAZETTE.

THE history of this Church involves little difficulty. Until 15th October, 1261, the inhabitants of Cowick had no Parish Priest, to do duty for them, but used to attend divine service in the Conventual Church of St. Andrew. At this time the increasing population requiring the constant assistance of a Clergyman, the Prior and Monks of Cowick presented one *Henry*, for institution to Bp. Bronescombe, who readily consented ; and in consideration of the slender income of the Monastery and the noble hospitality exercised by the community, "fructuum ipsius ecclesiæ tenuitate et monachorum ipsorum, qui in eo loco ingentem exercent hospitalitatem," the Bishop merely required of the Prior to provide a decent Manse for the Vicar, with a salary of five marks per annum. In a Chapel dedicated to St. Thomas, Abp. of Canterbury, situated on the western extremity of Exe bridge, the Vicar for the time being continued for a century and a half to perform all parochial functions, with the exception of burial ; for all interments in this interval were confined to the cemetery of St. Michael's Chapel, lying just without the Priory gate. The Chapel of St. Thomas, with the bridge itself, having been swept away by an inundation, at the commencement of the fifteenth

century, John Bourgeannyll, the Prior of Cowick, gave and granted a sufficient spot of ground in Pirihay for the erection of a Church, with an adjoining Cemetery. It is described (fol. 287, vol. 2, Regist. Stafford) as being a central situation and distant from the river. On Tuesday, 4th Oct. 1412, Bishop Stafford consecrated this sacred Edifice under the title of St. Thomas the Martyr, and the Cemetery on the day following.*

The present fabric is a respectable building, and has been lately enlarged, yet little improved, by the extension of the North Aisle. In length it measures in the clear 77 feet and a half, and in breadth, 48. The Nave opens into the North Aisle by 5 arches, and into the South Aisle by 6 arches, of which the most eastern is a double arch. In the North Wall of the Chancel we observe the arms of Petre, of Hays, in this parish. John Petre, younger brother of the celebrated Sir Wm. Petre, purchased *Hays*, and left it to his son William who died 30th April, 1614. William left it to his son Sir Geo. Petre, of Tor Newton, Knt. who sold it to Wm. Gould, of Exeter, Esq. This gentleman, by will, dated 20th May, 1632, gave £12 per annum, charged on his Estate called *Hays*, in this parish, for the use of the Poor. He died 23d December, 1635. By Elizabeth, daughter of Moses Gould, of Crediton, Esq. it passed, in 1739, to her husband, James Buller, of Downes, Esq.

In the Tower, 60 feet high, are six harmonious bells.

* The parishioners who subscribed the document in the register, were John Alkeborne, Vicar, Richard Holand, John Ffoyer, John Bryton, John Kyte, John Farthehull, Hugh Benyn, William Chedder, Peter Hode.

On its summit was executed a quondam Vicar, the Rev. Robert Welshe, in August, 1549. In addition to his crime of *Rebellion*, Hoker has thought proper to charge him with *ingratitudo* to his patron ; yet, living on the spot, and witnessing the proceedings, Hoker ought to have known better, than to assert that Welshe "had been presented to the Vicarage of St. Thomas by Lord Russel, patron thereof :" the fact is, that he had been Vicar upwards of two years, *before* the advowson came into the possession of that Nobleman. He was presented to the living by the Abbot and Convent of Tavistock, 9th March, 1536-7, on the death of the Rev. John Rugge.* The Abbey of Tavistock was not dissolved until 2d of March, 1539 : and it was only on 4th of July following its dissolution, that K. Henry VIII. granted to this new Peer the Church "*in parochia Thome Bekket.*" The Vicar was abundantly guilty in fomenting and encouraging *Rebellion*, (as to the charge of persuading his flock to retain their ancient religion, that will be scouted by every genuine friend of liberty of conscience) and he richly deserved to suffer the severest punishment of the LAW ; but it betrayed an ignoble and brutal mind in Lord Russell to authorise his own domestic servant, Barnard Duffeld, to hang his Chaplain in chains on the top of the Church, attired in his vestments and other insignia of office, and to suffer the body to remain suspended for a considerable period.

The Gallery of the Church we conceive, from the arms of Bp. Lamplugh, to have been erected shortly before the

* P. 87, vol. 1, of Veysey's Reg.

Revolution. In the 13 pannels we observed the shields of Merton or Seldon, Pate, Cradock, Petre, Acland, Gould, the Royal Arms, Carewe, Gubbs, Copleston, see of Exeter impaled with Bp. Thomas Lamplugh, Buller, and Northmore.

The Registry of Baptisms commences in the year 1541, and is continued correctly to the time of the Civil Wars, when it seems to have been altogether suspended, or irregularly kept until the Restoration. No entry of burials occurs until 1554, from which time it appears to have been continued till a partial interruption took place during the Commonwealth. To the Venerable Vicar, the Rev. J. B. COPLESTON, Prebendary of Exeter Cathedral, the writer returns his grateful acknowledgments for his promptitude in furnishing information.

In your literary journal of 24th July, we pointed out * the mistake of a received opinion, that Eustace Budgell, a very ingenious writer, but profligate character, was a native of this parish. His family had long resided here; but Eustace himself was born in 1686, at *Simondsbury*, in Dorsetshire, and was baptized there. His father, Rev. Dr. Gilbert Budgell, had married Anne, daughter of Dr. Wm. Gulston, Bp. of Bristol; and on the death of his Right Rev. father-in-law, in 1684, succeeded to that valuable preferment.

I cannot quit these sacred precincts without lamenting one, whose memory must ever be dear to his friends and to literature, the late JOHN JONES, of Franklyn, Esq. F.S.A.

* In line 13 of that biographical sketch, *Eustace*, instead of *Budgell*, was incorrectly printed.

With the modesty so characteristic of his life, his gravestone simply records his birth on 9th April 1768, and his death on 8th Nov. 1821. Possessed of a most searching and accurate mind, accompanied with indefatigable zeal and industry, he had early in life amassed a prodigious store of scientific information. On antiquarian subjects, and knowledge of the history of Devon, he was probably without a rival: and no scholar was ever more ready to assist, encourage, and direct the literary inquiries and pursuits of others. To me the loss of such an instructor is found by daily experience to be *irreparable*. Admiration of his genius, gratitude for his friendship, and veneration for his many virtues, can never quit me but with life.

CURIOSUS.

No. X.

ST. PETROCK'S, EXETER.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXETER AND PLYMOUTH GAZETTE.

OUR readers are aware that the Churches in Exeter were formerly much more numerous than at present. From certain extracts taken from the Old Missal belonging to *St. Martin's* Church, in this city, and copied into the ancient *Chartulary** of *St. John's* Hospital, (fol. 36) I discover that they amounted to thirty-two in number; but their several names are not given.

* *Penes Majorem Communitatem Civitatis Exon.*

In a deed,* however, witnessed by Eudo de Belló Campo, Sheriff of Devon, William Dirlng, then Mayor† of Exeter, Roger Fitzhenry and Nicholas Gervase; then Bailiffs, towards the end of King John's reign, I read that Peter de Palerna assigned an annual rent of 28d. payable on the fourth day of February, to the 28 churches here, to each the sum of one penny, viz.—to St. Sidwell's, St. Bartholomew's, St. Stephen's, St. Martin's, St. Peter's the Great, St. Mary's the Great, St. Mary's the Little, St. Peter's the Little, St. Petrock's, St. James', the Holy Trinity, St. Mary Magdalene's, St. Leonard's, St. George's, St. John's, St. Edmund's, St. Thomas', Allhallowes, St. Olave's, St. Mary's, St. Cuthbert's, St. Kerian's, St. Pancras', St. Paul's, the Holy Trinity, Allhallowes, and St. Laurence's. Izacke, and not Bishop Simon de Apulia, limited our parish churches to 19. (See p. 6, of the *Memorials*, &c.)

St. Petrock's Church, in the Close, is named after

* *Penes Pitman Jones, Armigerum.*

† This Mayor is confounded by Izacke with *Martin Dirlng*, and is placed in the year 1266. Perhaps *William Dirlng* was the *first Mayor* of Exeter. I meet with him as *Prepositus Exon*, witnessing Richard Fitz-Ralph's grant of 4s. annual sent to St. Alexius' Hospital situated behind St. Nicholas Priory: and soon after as *Mayor*, witnessing the above mentioned grant of Peter de Palerna; as also Alexander de Badstone's acknowledgment of 40d. quit rent, due to St. John's Hospital from Leycroft estate, in the parish and manor of Bradford. This latter deed was also witnessed by distinct Bailiffs of Exeter, Philip Belebuche and John Pudyn, whilst Endo Beauchamp was Sheriff of Devon; consequently between the years 1210 and 1216.

‡ This, frequently called *Christ Church* in ancient deeds, stood in Musgrave's Alley. N. B. The Churches in *italics* no longer exist.

the holy Abbot of Bodmin, who died 4th June, * 564. The present fabric, buried in the midst of houses, is a very mis-shapen structure, measuring in its greatest length 52 feet, and in its greatest breadth about 51 feet. It appears originally to have consisted of a Tower (which now can hardly peep over the surrounding encroachments), and of a North Aisle, a Nave, and Chancel, in which formerly stood the altars of St. Petrock, St. Thomas, and St. Mary. A South Aisle, as I collect from William Wilsford's will, bearing date 30th June, 1413, had then been recently erected. About a century later, considerable alterations were made in the Church: an Arch connected with the Tower appears to have been sacrificed: and then, I imagine from the style of the Windows, that the South Aisle was widened in the direction of the *Close*. On 22d July, 1513, Thomas Chard, Abbot of Ford, and *Suffragan* of Bishop Oldam, consecrated, dedicated, and blest the church:—“ Thomas Episcopus Salubriæ consecravit, dedicavit, et benedixit Ecclesiam Sci. Petroci, Exon.” (Oldam's Reg.) The South Aisle, called *Jesus* Aisle from its altar entitled by that venerable name, was reseated for Lady-day 1520. A condition of the agreement 14th Feb. anno decimo Henrici VIII. between the Churchwardens and the Carpenters, is, that the *new* seats and benches shall in form resemble the *old* ones. It would have been well if in subsequent alterations and repairs, the same attention to symmetry and character had been required and observed.

* St. Petrock, a native of Great Britain, from whom Petrockstow in Cornwall derives its name, spent 20 years in Ireland in studying the *Scriptures*, and general literature. See Laming's *Eccl. Hist. of Ireland*, p. 492, vol 1.

Amongst the benefactors of lands and tenements to St. Petrock's, as well for the maintenance of perpetual obits, and purposes of charity, as for ornamenting and repairing the fabric, we may mention the following:—

1.—*John Talbot*, who on the 21st Sept. 1420, gave a field lying beyond Eastgate.

2.—*Roger Golde*, who, on 7th April, 1421, gave a tenement in *Parystrete*, Exeter.

3.—*Robert Wiforde*, who on 4th Sept. 1471, gave a barn and field on St. David's hill.

4.—*John Kelly*, who by will dated 16th Nov. 1486, desires to be buried in the South Aisle, gives to the Church Store a cope of *Crymsyn Velowet*, and a set of High Mass Vestments *de Velowet* of the same color: also a legacy of 40s. to the Rector, and a close of land on St. David's hill.

5.—*Simon Davye*, who by will dated 19th March, 1494, left certain tenements called *Paradise*, in St. Paul's parish: he provides oil for lighting the lamp which burnt before the blessed Sacrament in the Chancel, “*oleum in lampade ad comburendum in Cancello ad Sacramenfum.*”

6.—*Thomas Elyot, Esq.* Collector of the Customs to K. Henry VII. for the ports of Exeter and Dartmouth, gave, 5th Aug. 1505, his house near the Great Conduit in High-street. Its back front, towards the Globe Inn, is the admiration of every beholder.

7.—*Elizabeth Hanford*, on 21st January, 1516, assigned a messuage in North-street.

We are gratified in understanding that the above property has been secured to the parish. It is pleasing also to know, that the Parochial Registers are in good preser-

vation from the year 1538. The Marriages begin with 13th Oct. that year ; Baptisms date from 5th ; and Burials with 22d of the *ensuing* January.

Probably few Parish Churches are better provided with Sacramental Plate, the gifts of individuals, who have from modesty concealed their names. On the two cups, I observed dates ; on one 1572,—on the other 1640. The two superb flagons are both dated 1692. But rich as it is, the ancient accounts of the Wardens shew that it was considerably richer before the Reformation. At the inventory of 1485, the Church possessed 18 ounces and a half of gold, and 281 ounces of silver. This was subsequently increased: amongst other additional articles, I find that 2 silver candlesticks, weighing 106 ounces, were sold in the beginning of Edward the Sixth's reign.

Mark Downe, of puritanical memory, was presented to St. Petrock's on the 11th Aug. 1657, by the Mayor and Corporation of Exeter.

In closing our observations on St. Petrock's we may mention three decent Monuments on the north wall, which probably are the work of the same sculptor; 1st of *John Mayne*, Merchant, who died 11th June, 1680. For an extract of his charitable will, dated 30th May, 1680, see p. 107, of Izacke's Register, republished by the Rev. W. Carwithen ; 2d of Alexander Worth, who died 18th Oct. 1680 ; and 3rd to William Hooper and Mary his wife: he died 17th January, 1682-3.

CURIOSUS.

No. XI.

ALPHINGTON.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXETER AND PLYMOUTH
GAZETTE.

THIS extensive Manor and part of the ancient Barony of Oakhampton, derives its name from the Alphin stream that passes through it. How it successively became the property of the Nevils and Segraves, I know not; but in the year 1382 Sir Philip Courtenay obtained it of the latter family by exchange. The Courtenay Arms, with the supporters, a boar and a dolphin, are still visible on the Church porch.

The Church stands on a rising ground, and is a commanding object to the neighbourhood. The Tower, full 70 feet high, contains 8 bells, cast by Thomas Bilbie, in 1749. The extreme length of the inside of the Church from the East Window to the Belfry-door is 73 feet, and including the Belfry twenty feet more: the breadth of the Nave, with the North and South Aisles, is 42 feet.*

Entering the Porch, we observed in a corner the ancient Vase for the Holy Water, with which the faithful

* On a sudden storm, 10th June, 1826, the Tower and Church suffered considerable damage by the lightning. Four of the ringers were struck down senseless, and the Sexton's boy Geo. Coles, aged 14, was unfortunately killed.

were accustomed to sprinkle themselves, to denote the purity and innocence so becoming the creature that enters the Sanctuary of the Creator. In advancing up the Nave, it was painful to witness the accumulation of whitewash, which effectually obscured and buried the boldness and relief of the Capitals, but which has lately been cleared away by the active zeal of the Rev. RICHARD ELLICOMBE. Five Arches connect the Aisles with the Nave: on the second pillar of the North side is a *double capital*,* and the inequality of the upper masonry marks where the West part of the Church began to be re-built, perhaps at the close of the 14th century. At the end of either Aisle stood an Altar; on the right hand of which we can easily trace the situation of the Piscina.

The Baptismal Font is of remote antiquity, and may have been here before the Conquest. Mr. Polwhele† conjectures that it partakes of the *Pagan* and *Christian* character. With deference I submit, that the scroll work is neither more nor less than a rude representation of the combat of *St. Michael*, to whom the Church is dedicated, with the great *Dragon*, as related in the 12th chapter of the Revelations. The embellishment of the lower part consists of circular arches intersecting each other; the point of intersection producing what is vulgarly called Gothic architecture. This may possibly be the earliest specimen of the kind in our Parochial Churches.

In front of the Gallery is the date of its erection, 1632.

*The Lower Capital was chipt away in Easter Week, 1827.

†P. 233, "History of Devon. Period of the Saxons and Normans.

In 16 pannels are the following shields, some, I think, incorrectly blazoned.

- 1.—*Southcot.*
- 2.— . . .
- 3.—*Tothill.*
- 4.—I think is *Duck's.*
- 5.—*Owenham's.*
- 6.— . . .
- 7.—Arms of the *See of Exeter* impaled with *Dr. Hall's*, then Bishop of Exeter.
- 8.—*Bourchier's*, Earl of Bath, then the Patron.
- 9.—*Courtenay's* impaled with *Seymour's*. N. B. Sir Francis Courtenay, who died in June, 1638, æt. 62, married for his second wife Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Edward Seymour, of Berry Pomeroy, Bart. Her Ladyship was buried at Powderham, 2d October, 1653.
- 10.—*Bampfylde's.*
- 11.—*Northleigh's.*
- 12.— . . .
- 13.—*Coffin*, holders of Property at March Barton.
- 14.—*Q.*
- 15.—I think *Holway's*, of Wadeton.
- 16.—Arms of the *Taylors' Company*, Exeter.

The Church of Alphington was granted to Plympton Priory in the reign of Stephen, by William Avenel (see p. 9, vol. 2, Dugdale's *Monasticon*.) About a century and a half later we find it in possession of the Prior and Convent of St. Nicholas, Exeter, who presented Hugo Norman to Bishop Stapledon for institution on 12th June 1310. (Fol. 52, Reg. Stapledon.) And we learn from Bishop Grandisson's Register, that the said Convent

proved its right, to the Prelate's satisfaction, 6th Feb. 1330, to the annual receipt of 2s. from this Parish Church.

Within the parish was the ancient Cell or Priory of St. Mary, dependant on Plympton Priory, and now commonly called *Marsh Barton*. It is mentioned in a letter addressed by Ralph de Avenel a principal benefactor of Plympton priory, to Robert Warelwast, Bishop of Exeter, between the years 1155 and 1160. From the composition between John Mayor, the Rector of Alphington, and the Custos of the Priory, 11th March, 1444, (fol. 452, vol. 3, Reg. Lacy,) it is evident that St. Mary's Acre, *acra sanctæ Mariæ*, was alone exempt from Tithes, and that none but the residents of the inner court of the Priory were privileged from attending the Parish Church. In a Rental, made 2d Nov. 1421, and preserved, fol. 85, of the Chartulary of St. John's Hospital, the Receipts of the Priory were •

From Exeter	£	23	12	7
Alphington		1	6	4
Heavitree,		0	9	4
		—	—	—
		25	8	3
Deductions in dues and other payments		1	6	6
		—	—	—
Total		24	1	9

The only Superiors, or *Custodes*, that I have met with, are, Thomas Cryer, 1409; Thos. Marshall, 1421; and Wm. Howe, 1494, who left a trifling legacy to St. Petrock's Church, Exeter.

Soon after the Dissolution of Religious Houses, Henry

VIII. granted the scite, with several Messuages in Alphington, St. Thomas, and Newton St. Cyres parish, on 9th Sept. 1546, to James Coffin, and Thos. Godwin. This James Coffin, on 10th Dec. 1562, sold to John Hoker, the Historian, for £27, all the oak, ash, elm, and other trees standing in the grove, on the South part of the Mansion House of Marsh, between the running water on the S. and the open pasture adjoining the said Mansion on the N. and the Great Pool on the W. and a ditch on the E. together with some other Oaks, towards the S.E. part of the said Mansion. Hardly a vestige of this Priory has been suffered to remain.

We cannot leave Alphington without expressing our gratification at seeing its ancient Cross securely erect near the highway. That in a country where Christianity is a part and parcel of its law, and where the *Invention and Exaltation of the Cross* are kept in the calendar, there should have been such indiscriminate destruction of this* principal emblem of its religion, is utterly astonishing. In a treatise on the ten commandments, entitled *Dives et Pauper*, printed at Westminster, by Wynken de Worde, A.D. 1496, the reason for planting the Cross by the roadside is properly given:—" *For this reason ben Crosses by ye waye, that whan folke passynge see the Crosses, they sholde thynke on Hym that deyed on ye Crosse, and worshyppe hym above all thynges.*"

The Rev. RICHARD ELLICOMBE kindly informs me, that the Alphington Registers commence with the year 1663 :

* See St. Chrysostom's book against the Jews and Gentiles.

viz. Burials, 24th May; Baptisms, 29th May; Marriages, 29th June, that year.

CURIOSUS.

No. XII.

BISHOP'S TEIGNTON.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXETER AND PLYMOUTH
GAZETTE.

DOMESDAY book shews, that the Manor of *Bishop's Teignton* belonged to the See of Exeter at the time of the Conquest. Perhaps it was part of its endowment by St. Edward the Confessor.

The present Church is an interesting fabric. The *Chancel* is of very remote antiquity: judging from its two Windows in the South Wall, I cannot suppose it to be posterior to the reign of Richard the First. The *Nave* is at least a century later, and is connected with a *North Aisle* by five circular arches. On the capitals of three of the pillars I observed a knot; whether it were the cognizance of the *Bourchiers* or the *Wakes*, I could not determine; but it certainly differs from the *Stafford* one. The *Saxon Font* is coeval, I think, with the ancient *Western Doorway*. By measurement, the Church proved to be 82 feet and a half in length, and 35 in breadth.*—

* Mr. Polwhele, p. 150, reduces the breadth to 25 feet.

In the North Wall a Staircase was lately discovered, which evidently led to the Rood Loft.

Radway, in this parish, sometimes designated as a distinct Manor, was honored with the frequent residence of our Bishops. The Palace, long since ruined, is generally called the *Old Walls*. Bishop Bronescombe occasionally resided here, nearly a century before Bishop Grandisson is supposed to have erected the Mansion. The last mentioned Prelate, in a letter to Pope John XXII., written about the year 1332, describes the Palace as a beautiful structure—“*pulcra edificia.*” The S. and E. walls of its Chapel, dedicated to St. John the Evangelist, are still standing: they measure in the clear 58 feet by 18: at the East end are three lancet windows, and in the South Wall are eight windows of similar form, with two door-ways; the higher one we may suppose was reserved for the Bishop and his Clergy, and the lower entrance for the domestic servants. In the taxation of Bishop's Teignton, dated Oct. 1361, Bishop Grandisson requires the Vicar to officiate here once a week, either in person or by proxy:—“*Singulis ebdomadis, si comode possit, semel celebret vel celebrari faciat in capella Sci Johis Evangeliste infra Manerium nostrum de Radewege situata.*” Here Bishop Lacy (between 1420 and 1455) held several ordinations. Mr. Polwhele must mistake in supposing the palace to have been contiguous* to the

* See p. 150. I believe the ruins near the Church belonged to St. John the *Baptist's* chapel. Bp. Lacy, on 23rd June, 1449, granted an indulgence of 40 days to all pious Christians contributing “*capelle Sci. Johis Baptiste prope Ecclesiam Parochialem de Teynton Epi.*”

Church ; and does he not confound "an asylum for decayed clergymen here" with the one at Clyst ?

The Registers of Bishop's Teignton commence with the year 1559, and are in tolerable preservation.

Formerly *West Teignmouth* was included in the parish of Bishop's Teignton. In its favour the Bishops of Exeter obtained some important charters. Bishop Stapeldon, in a letter dated 9th October, 1309, and preserved in fol. 44 of his Register, expressly says that the burgesses and tenants here of the Bishoprick—"burgenses et tenentes nostri de Teyngemouwe Epi,"—were specially exempted, by several Royal charters, from the payment of toll,—that they actually then enjoyed such exemption with their ships and merchandise, "cum navibus et markandisis suis"—and that he is ready to produce the said charters.

The first time that I meet with St. James's church in West Teignmouth, is on 24th Sept. 1317, when Bishop Stapeldon held an ordination there. In 1361, I find Bishop Grandisson stating that the Vicar of Bishop's Teignton is to provide a Chaplain for the said Church, as his predecessors had done long before—"prout *antiquitus* fecerunt." In the Church were two side Altars, called the Holy Ghost's and the Blessed Virgin's, as I learn from the will of Nicholas Upton, dated 25th Sept. 1448, and proved in August following ; it contains a bequest to them ; and he desires to be buried in St. James's Cemetery. At the upper end of the Church, says Westcote, was inscribed in great capital letters "Pray for ye souls of Thomas Smith, and Clement his wife ; John Smith and Isabella his wife, all good Benefactors."

Bad as this Church unquestionably was, did it yield in correct taste to its present fantastic and extravagant successor?

In West Teignmouth was formerly a poor-house. Q. St. Mary Magdalene's? Bishop Lacy, on 27th June, 1434, granted an indulgence of 40 days to sincere penitents, contributing to its support—" *ad sustentationem domorum pauperum de Teyngmuth, infra parochiam de Teignton Epis situatarum.*"

On 1st Dec. 1549, King Edward VI. recommended to Bishop Veysey, (a royal recommendation in those days was tantamount to a positive command) "to give and grant to Sir Andrew Dudley, Knight, the manor of Bishop's Teynton, Radway, and West Teignmouth, with the parsonage of Bishop's Teynton and Radway, and the advowsons of the vicarage there in the countie of Devon, belonging and apperteyning to the bishoprick." Well might Heylyn, in his preface to the History of the Reformation assert, " King Edward's death I cannot reckon for an infelicity to the Church of England, for being ill principled in himself, and easily inclined to embrace such counsels as were offered to him, it is not to be thought but that the rest of the Bishopricks (before sufficiently impoverished) must have followed *Durham*,* and the poor Church be left as destitute of lands and ornaments, as when she came into the world in her natural nakedness.

CURIOSUS.

* It had been dissolved by Act of Parliament. See p. 136, Heylyn, Hist. of the Reformation.

No. XIII.

COLLUMPTON.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXETER AND PLYMOUTH GAZETTE.

THE Manor of Collumpton was granted to Buckland Abbey by its foundress, Amicia, the Countess of Devon, A. D. 1278, and was duly confirmed to that Abbey by her daughter Isabella, and by King Edward the First in the 8th year of his reign. In the taxation* of Pope Nicholas IV. Collumpton Manor was rated at £9 15s. 4d. To Thomas Waplegh, Abbot of Buckland, the town stands indebted for the water-course which contributes so much to the comfort and cleanliness of the inhabitants. His deed of grant, dated 6th May, 1356, was shewn me by the Rev. J. SYDENHAM. The stream

* It may be proper to remind the reader that Pope Innocent IV. granted the first fruits and tenths of all Ecclesiastical Benefices in the realm to King Henry III. A. D. 1253, for three years. This produced the year following the *Norwich Taxatio*, so called from its Bishop, Walter Suffield, and sometimes Pope Innocent's valor.—In 1288, Pope Nicholas IV. having granted the tenths for 6 years to King Edward I. ; and under the direction of Oliver Sutton, Bp. of Lincoln, and John de Pontissara, Bp. of Winton, a rigid assessment was formed. That of the province of Canterbury was completed in 1291,—that of York in the year following. By this estimate all taxes for the Church and State were regulated until the new *Valor Beneficiorum* was made in 1534. In comparing some MS. copies with one printed in 1802, I remark frequent variations both in the sums and names.

was turned to the town from *Weremede*, now called Wear-park. In various leases of property in this parish by the Abbots of Buckland, I meet with Broke-place, Che-pyng-place, Ayshland, Pirrewode, Brode-park, Middel-parke, and Les Hams, near Collumpton Bridge. Abbot Thos. Whyte, 28th May, 18th Henry VIII. granted to Walter Bowden, his wife Mary, and their daughter, Margery, *totam tenuram nostram cum parcella terre nre in la Ham apud Stonyforde Brigge, cu proficuis Waterlete in Man. de Coljumpton.*

Five Prebends in the parish, called Upton, Colebrooke, Hineland, Waevre, and Esse or Ashe, were appropriated soon after the Conquest to St. Nicholas' Priory, Exeter. I collect from p. 135, vol. 1. Monasticon, that the Monks originally sent from Battle Abbey, remained for a time at Collumpton, until their house in Exeter was ready to receive them. K. Henry I. gave the Church to Bp. William Warewast, and his successors in the See of Exeter: at what time they granted its presentation to St. Nicholas' Priory I cannot discover; but certainly from the reign of Henry III. Until the suppression, in the autumn of 1536, the presentation to this Vicarage was vested in the said Prior and Convent. In Aug. 1269, Bishop Bronescombe taxed the Vicarage and assigned to it all the altilage, the tithe of hay, and a decent Manse: the rest of the profits and tithes he allowed to the Patrons, the Prior and Convent of St. Nicholas, Exeter.

Within the columns of a newspaper it is utterly impossible to do justice to this noble Parish Church, dedicated to St. Andrew. Its majestic Tower, rising 100 feet, arrested the eye long before we reached the spot. On approaching it, we observed an inscription over the great

entrance, stating that it was begun to be built in the year 1545. The arms of England, with those of John Veysey, then Bishop of Exeter, are distinctly visible : above them we recognise the statue of King Edward VI. in good preservation, whilst the effigy of St. George, and the figure of the crucified Redeemer, have been wantonly mutilated and defaced. On entering the Church we were delighted with the splendid Roof of the lofty Nave, with the gorgeous Screen and Rood-loft,* and with that noble pile of architecture commonly called *Lane's Chapel*. The pannels of the screen once were decorated with paintings of the Saints ; but these have long disappeared. In the North or *More's Aisle*, are eight heraldic shields :—

* In a letter published by Mr. Polewhale (Note, p. 255) the writer asserts, that the representation of the Golgotha or Calvary, which now lies at the west end of the Church, was removed from the Rood-loft *during the Protectorate*, and that some figures on the tower were decapitated, *doubtless by Cromwell's party*. To us it appears nearly certain that the removal took place in virtue of the Government order to that effect a century before, *viz. A. D. 1547*. Cromwell's party was bad enough, but not worse than the fanatical Iconoclasts of the 16th century. Numerous proofs might be adduced of this ; but we may content ourselves with observing, that 13 pictures, belonging to St. Mary Steps Church, Exeter, together with the Tabernacle, which rested on the altar, were burnt in St. Peter's Yard by order of Queen Elizabeth's visitors, in Sept. 1559. "These visitors," says John Hoker, in his MS. history, "lodged in the Dean's house, and during their stay, defaced and pulled down and burnt *all* images and monuments of idolatry, which all were brought into the Churchyard of St. Peter's.—And they who in Queen Mary's days were accounted to be most forward in erecting and maintaining them, were now made the instruments to make the fire to burn them. Amongst other good things which the visitors did, *they did deface all the Altars.*" Yet notwithstanding this Vandals fury, the Rev. Thos. Barrett commenced his visitation of the Archdeaconry of Exeter, 6th April, 1583, by enquiring "*Whether all images and other superstitious things, were clean defaced, and Rood-lofts taken down ? if not, through whose default it is so ?*"

- 1.—*More, of Morehays, Ermine, on a Chevron Azure, three cinque-foils Or, impaled (I believe) with Gambon.*
- 2.—Ditto—impaled with Botour.
- 3.—Ditto—impaled, (I think) with Cleivland or Clivedon
- 4.—Ditto—impaled
- 5.—Ditto—impaled
- 6.—*Prout, of Hillersdon, with More.*
- 7.—*Walrend, impaled with More.*
- 8.—*More, impaled*

Few parish Churches can offer so many ancient Grave-stones. Amongst others we noticed that of *Roger Stockman*, a former Vicar, who died Dec. 17, 1471:—*John Kyng, Esq.* who died 9th Oct. 1487:—*John More, Esq.* who died 4th Jan. 1509:—*John Hyll*, who died 25th July, 1529; *John Kaleway, Esq.* who died Feb. 24, 1530.

We may now turn to *Lane's Chapel*, which will ever immortalize its generous founder. It is connected with the North Aisle by five gracefully-pointed arches: the Windows are conceived in good taste, and the groining of the roof, with its bold pendant ornaments, challenges the admiration of every spectator. The founder was an eminent wool merchant of the place, and its Head-borough or Bailiff. He died 15th Feb. 1528, and is buried near the Altar of his own Chapel. The leger-stone has been broken, and robbed of its brasses; but the inscription is clearly legible, viz.—

HIC JACET JOHS LANE MATOR HUI⁹ Q⁶ CAPELLE
FUDATOR CU THOMASIA UXORE SUA Q¹ DICT⁹ JOHES OBIT
XV⁰ DIE FEBRUARII ANO DNI MILLO CCCCCXXVIII.

The exterior of the Chapel is charged with the initials of the Founder, and the instruments and devices of his

trade : below, on a course of white stone, we read the following inscription in old English characters :—

“ In honor of God & his blessed Mother Mary, remeb.
the saule of John Lane Wapetak Cust. & Lanarii, and the
sawle of Tomasyn his wiffe to have in memory, with all
other ther childry & frinds of youre awne cheryty, which
were Fownders of thys Chapell, here lyeth yn cepultur,
the yer of ower Lorde God 1 thousand five hundred syx
and twenti. God of his grace on ther boyth sawlies have
marcy, and fynally bryng them to the eternall glory.
Amen for cheryty.”

The total width of this spacious Church, including Lane's Chapel, is nearly 70 feet : the length to the Belfry, 100 feet 6 inches, and with the Belfry, 126 feet. We could wish the neat octagon Font to be cleared of the incrustations of whitewash, as the Capitals of the Pillars on either side of the Nave have lately been, by the active zeal of the Vicar, the Rev. J. TEMPLER. It is pleasing to witness his exemplary attention to the neatness and improvement of the fabric.

The Parochial Registers commenced with Lady-day, 1601.

We read in Bishop Grandisson's Register, that Thos. Pylton, Vicar of Collumpton, had incurred the sentence of excommunication—“ *propter multiplices offensas in Deum et sanctam Sedem Apostolicam.* ” He had been convicted of forging Papal letters and seals. After actually resigning his benefice into the hands of his Bishop, he had the audacity shortly after to intrude himself into the Church, to keep possession, and openly to exercise the priestly functions. Grandisson was not of a temper to endure his opposition to ecclesiastical authority ; but on

the 21st Nov. 1361, ordered sentence of excommunication to be published in Collumpton and the neighbouring Churches, and to be strictly enforced against him.

The Chapels of St. James and St. George,—“*Capelle Sci Jacobi et Sci Georgii infra Parochiam de Collumpton,*” occur 14th July, 1401, in Bishop Stafford’s Register.

Amongst the *Originalia* we observe King Edward the Sixth’s grant, 2d April, 1549, to Giles Keyleway and W. Leonard, of all that Messuage and capital Mansion, *late the Gild of St. Nicholas* at Collumpton.

The same King, 5th June, 1551, leased to Sir John More, Knt. the entire Rectory and Church of Collumpton (timber and advowson excepted) for 21 years, under the yearly rent of £31.; and Queen Elizabeth, 29th Jan. 1563, granted the perpetuity of the said Rectory and Church, together with the Advowson, free disposition, and right of patronage of the Vicarage and Parish Church, to Robt. Freke and John Walker, of London. These Gentlemen, 1st Nov. 1584, sold a moiety of their interest in this grant to Simon Keleway, of Collumpton, Gent. who disposed of the same 15th Feb. sixteen months later, to William Every, of Chard, merchant, for £1000 sterling.

CURIOSUS.

No. XIV.

BROADCLIST.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXETER AND PLYMOUTH GAZETTE.

THIS, Manor frequently called Cliston or Clist Nonant, from the *Nonant* family, who possessed it from K. Henry the First's time until the reign of Edward III. is one of the most extensive in Devonshire. Here lay the greater part of the lands belonging to the Prebends of *Hayes and Ashclif*, attached to St. Mary's Chapel, within the Castle of Exeter. Here St. John's Hospital, in Exeter, had a considerable property called *Kynewardesburgh*, from the year 1278 until the dissolution of that house in 1539. Here again the Priory of Totness held certain lands called *Karswille, Wythybrygge, Brokehyllelake, and Burgh*, by the same service at St. John's Hospital, viz. by ploughing for the Lord of the Manor one day, and reaping on another day, or in lieu thereof paying 4½d. for ploughing, and 2d. for reaping. This service entitled the tenants to common pasture in *Hethfeld and Hellebrymore, Clistmore, and Sprydon*.*

The Parish Church, dedicated to St. John the Baptist, presents a most respectable appearance on the outside. With a Tower, which is an ornament to the surrounding country, and which probably served as a model to that

* Fol. 4, Chartulary of St. John's Hospital.

of Collumpton, and with the advantage of superior masonry and proportions, we cannot but regret that the inside is so woefully naked. Whitewash in all its manifold layers seems to have been thought the chastest embellishment. In defiance of the Rubrick prefixed to the Book of Common Prayer that " the Chancels shall remain as they have done in times past," the Screen has entirely disappeared. On the South side of the Altar, behind the Sedilia for the Priest, Deacon, and Subdeacon, is the sepulchral monument of a Knight in plate armour, with mail gorget and a pointed helmet ; but the blazonry of the shields, suspended above, has been studiously effaced by those implacable foes of antiquity, the whitewashers. It is thought that this beautiful monument was erected to the memory of a Knight of the Chudleigh family. This is probably the fact ; for they possessed the Manor from the time of Edward III. until the reign of Elizabeth ; and in Risdon's days the church contained " sundry remembrances of the ancient family of the Chudleighs.*

The length of the Church, including the Belfry, is 125 feet ; the width is 42 feet ; height of the Tower 100 feet. Six arches connect the Nave with a North and South Aisle ; on the capital we observed the Stafford knot. From the appearance of the Church, I think that with the exception of the Chancel it must have been rebuilt in the early part of the fifteenth century. Perhaps the upper part of the Tower† was not completed in its present state

*P. 60. last edition.

†In the course of this century several Church Towers were erected. In 1407 we meet with 40s. gift by the Priest Vicars towards the rebuilding of the Belfry at *Woodbury*, "ad construendum novum campanile in ecclesia de *Woodbury*." Bp. Lacy,

until late in that century; for we observe the portcullis, the device which K. Henry VII. adopted as a descendant from the Beauforts.

In front of the Gallery, which cannot be recommended for good taste, are 18 Escutcheons, some of which we apprehend to be incorrectly blazoned. Standing near the South Porch, we believe the 1st to be *Hunt*.—2d, *Meinwaring*.—3d,—4th,—5th,—6th, *Dennis*.—7th, *Southcote*.—8th, *Bampfylde*.—9th, *Courtenay*.—10th, *Morice*.—11th, *Acland*, with a mullet for difference impaled, Q. with *Vincent*?—12th, *Beavis*.—13th *Bassett*.—14th,—15th,—16th, *Acland*, with a crescent for difference.—17th, *Barrows*, impaled with *Reynell*. N. B. *Reynell* of Malston, was patron of the Church in King James the First's time.—18th, *Drew* impaled with *Fitzwilliam*.

On the 7th September, 1529, Simon Rede, Abbot of Our Saviour's Monastery of Torre, and the Convent of the same place, granted to John and Jane Adam, and their sons Michael and William, for their several lives, the capital messuage and mansion, “*manerii nostri de Aysheclyst*,” with all “*les Barton Lands*,” under the yearly rent of 4l. 1s.

In the church-yard is the elevated upright of the Cross, with the arms broken. At Columb John is an ancient Chapel, which was repaired, beautified, and endowed by

16th Dec. 1437, granted forty days indulgence to all sincere penitents who should contribute “*ad constructionem et emendationem campanilis ecclesie de Bradenynch de novo fiendi*.” Richard Stoke, Prior of St. Mary's at *Totness*, 3d. April, 1459, granted £10 towards the new Belfry there—“*opere novi campanilis fiendi in occidentali parte Ecclesie Parochialis Tottonie*,” &c. &c.

Sir John Acland, of charitable memory. It was consecrated by Bishop Cotton, on Sunday the 11th of Sept. 1608, in the presence of the said worthy Knight, William Hellyar, Archdeacon of Barnstaple, Christopher Mainwaring, Esq. and many others.

CURIOSUS.

No. XV.

ST. OLAVE'S CHURCH, EXETER.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXETER AND PLYMOUTH
GAZETTE.

THE history of this Church is intimately connected with that of the adjoining Priory of St. Nicholas; but we shall endeavour to keep it as distinct as we can, after observing, that St. OLAVE was King of Norway, and was martyred in the year 1028*—that the Church was probably erected in his honor, during the reign of Canute—that it was given, as Domesday shews, to Battle Abbey, in Sussex, by William the Conqueror—and that the presentation of the Rector was vested in St. Nicholas' Priory, from the close of the eleventh century, until the suppression of the said Monastery, in the autumn of 1536.

* Mr. Jenkins, p. 396, Hist. of Exeter, says, "he was martyred in the latter end of the ninth century."

We believe that the present fabric did not exist before the reign of King Edward the Third. It consists of a Nave and Chancel, and a *double* North Aisle. The Aisle adjoining the Chancel is considerably longer than the other, but it is dark from the windows having been blocked up by surrounding houses. It communicates with the Chancel and Nave by five arches, and with the smaller Aisle by two arches.* The extreme length of the Church is 42 feet and a half; the greatest breadth is 47 feet. At the western end, until lately, was a lofty chamber extending under the Church roof, from the North to the South wall, 29 feet in length, and 12 in breadth. Here the Rectors formerly resided, in virtue of an agreement made at Easter, 1408, between the then Rector, John Bourgoyn, and the parishioners. The deed is still preserved in the parish chest.

To this church, John Wynard, by deed of 2d March, 5th of Edward IV. granted the yearly rent of 18d. issuing from his messuage (now Mr. J. H. Rowe's) in Paris-street, Exeter.

For nearly 300 years previous to the dissolution of St. Nicholas's Priory, we can offer the succession of Rectors, viz.—

1. *Nicholas de Tbotton*, appointed in Aug. 1276; on his preferment to Poughill.
2. *Adam de Leeche* was instituted 1st April, 1279.
3. *Simon de Epston*; on whose death
4. *Thomas Songer* succeeded, 6th Dec. 1341.
5. *Richard Collyer*, instituted 26th Jan. 1348.

* Mr. Polwhele, p. 13, asserts, that "the church has three aisles, supported by two rows of pillars, three in each row."

6. *Richard de Coleton* followed, 23d Dec. 1350.
7. *John Hamond*; on whose resignation
8. *William Aller* was instituted 10th Dec. 1391.
- N. B. He was buried in St. John's Hospital, as we learn from folio 94 of its Register.
9. *John Buryogn*, instituted 6th Jan. 1403; on whose resignation,
10. *Walter Cade* was preferred 16th July, 1415; he resigned, when
11. *James Richards* succeeded, 24th April, 1437.
12. *William Dyer* admitted, on Richards's resignation, 12th Oct. 1446.
13. *John Floure*; on his resigning,
14. *Roger Alyn* succeeded, 21st Oct. 1459.
15. *Nicholas Mylton*, admitted 29th Sept. 1462, on Alyn's resignation.
16. *John Peet* succeeded 19th May, 1464, on Mylton's death.
17. *John Phelypp*, instituted 6th Sept. 1467, on Peet's resignation.
18. *Thos. Nycoll* followed, 6th Aug. 1501, on Phelypp's resignation.
19. *John Jordayn*, admitted 27th Sept. 1501, when Nycoll resigned.
20. *Thomas Banaster*, succeeded, 2d Aug. 1508, on Jordayn's resignation.
21. *Thomas Wallys, or Welsh*, instituted 17th Dec. 1534, on Banaster's death.
- N. B. Wallys was living 24th Oct. 1539.

The Priory of St. Nicholas had considerable Church Preferment, and to this cause we may attribute the frequency of the above resignations; but I can find no

foundation for Mr. Jenkin's assertion, that the Rectors were generally members of that religious establishment. I cannot discover it to be the case in a solitary instance.

It is sometimes asserted that a burying-ground was attached to St. Olave's Church, because human bones are frequently discovered near it. The fact is, the cemetery of St. Nicholas extended in this direction to the Fore-street. In proof of this we may offer the following entries in the rental of *St. Mary of the Marsh*, near Exeter, bearing date 2d Nov. 1421 ; *de tenementis Johis Schaplegj justa Cemeterium Sci Nicholai in magno vico per an. vith viiith De II. Schopis Johis Schaplegj justa Ecclesiam Sci Olavi per an. ixth*.

West of St. Olave's Church, near the gate of St. Nicholas' Priory, (now I believe the entrance to the Mint) the Tanners stood on fair and market days.

In the church of St. Olave was formerly an Organ, as we learn from an agreement of Richard Chappyngton, of South Molton, organ-maker, with the parishioners, dated 10th Aug. 1536.

The Registers begin with 1601.*

In concluding, we may record the liberality of the pre-

* Q. What has become of the Register of the *French Protestants*, who were allowed the use of this church for their public worship during the space of about seventy years? The last minister of the French congregation was the Rev. *John Courtail*, (not Lewis Courtauld, as Jenkins calls him. p. 396) ; he was buried October the 24th, 1759—his wife Mary, was buried 27th November, 1745. In St. Leonard's Parochial Register I read “John Courtail, of the City and County of Exon, Clerke, and Mary Sanxay of the same, were married 15th October 1713.”

N. B. The first Minister of the French Protestants here, and I believe the immediate predecessor of the said Courtail, was Rev. Andrew Majendie.

sent Rector, Rev. WILLIAM COMPTON, who gave two handsome pieces of plate to the parish, on 20th Feb. 1815.

CURIOSUS.

No. XVI.

KING'S TEIGNTON.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXETER AND PLYMOUTH GAZETTE.

FROM a remote period, King's Teignton, with Yealmpton Church, constituted a Prebend in Salisbury Cathedral. The foundation was confirmed by Pope Honorius III. on 6th June, 1224.

The present fabric, dedicated to St. Michael, offers a respectable appearance; but owing to modern innovations the interior is less gratifying to an antiquary than the exterior: to the best of my judgment, the South Porch, with the lower part of the adjoining Aisle, is the most ancient portion of the fabric, and is probably part of that Church which Bishop Stapeldon visited, when he consecrated the High Altar, on 3d May, A. D. 1318. The Scéen has long since been cleared away, yet here and there we catch one of its pannels; and though the painting has been wantonly hacked and injured, we are still enabled to recognise the well-drawn figures of St. Catharine of Alexandria, St. Denys the martyr, St. Barbara with her tower, St. Helena with the Latin cross, and St. Genevieve, with her torch, &c.

On measuring the Church, we found the length from the East Window to the end of the Nave to be 80 feet 6 inches, and, including the Belfry, 19 feet more; the width of the Church is 40 feet and a half. The Nave opens into a North and South Aisle by five arches. The stately Tower rises 82 feet in height.

Bishop Brantyngham, on 27th July, 1382, granted permission to John Burdon and Jane his wife, to have divine service performed in their domestic chapel at *Burdonwere* “*in capella sive oratorio infra mansionem eorundem de Burdonwere infra parochiam de Teynton Regis.*” Q. If this be Higher Ware? The Manor had been granted to the Burdon family, with the moiety of Teignbridge* Hundred, by K. Henry I.

The Parish Registers of King's Teignton antecedent to the year 1670, have unfortunately perished.

HIGHWEEK.

Dependant on Kingsteignton are the Chapels of *Teyngewyke*, now called Highweek, and Newton Bushell. The former is mentioned in a deed of Bishop Brewer between the years 1224 and 1244; it occurs again in a bull of Pope Ianocent III, dated 5th May, 1245. Until the early part of the fifteenth century it enjoyed all parochial rights, excepting that of *Sepulture*, when, in consequence of a petition from the inhabitants of Newton Bushell, to Pope Martin V. representing the distance from the Mother Church, the bad state of the roads, and the danger of attending a corpse in time of inundations, and

* Bishop Lacy, 12th January, 1434, granted an indulgence of 40 days to sincere penitents contributing to the building or repairing of *Teignbridge*. On the 9th October, 1438, he granted a similar indulgence in favor of *Teigngrace Bridge*.

praying his Holiness to be allowed to bury their dead at Highweek, the said Pope, on 14th May, 1427, graciously recommended their case to Bishop Edmund Lacy, who accordingly consecrated a Cemetery at Highweek, with a new Chapel there, in honor of *All Saints*, on the 19th of April in the year following. This Chapel, commanding the most enchanting and diversified prospect, consists of a Chancel, and a Nave connected with a North and South Aisle by 4 arches. The fabric, including the Tower, is 84 feet long, and 43 wide. The Tower, rising to 55 feet in height, contains six bells, cast in the year 1781. As well as I can judge, the Chancel and North Aisle are the most ancient parts of the building ; in the Windows of the latter I observed the arms of *Ferrers*, impaled with *Floier* ; also the figure of St. Dorothy, with the basket of flowers ; St. George, in the act of killing the Dragon ; and the instruments and emblems of the passion of Christ. In the centre of the Nave are represented the Courtenay arms, and the combat of St. George abovementioned. The octagon Font bears four shields.—1. *Ferrers*; 2. *Yard*; 3. *Q. Lacy*; 4. *Argent, a cross gules*. This last armorial bearing occurs also in the East window of the North Aisle.

NEWTON BUSHELL.

The Chapel of Newton Bushell (its patron Saint I cannot discover) is very respectable in the interior; and has fairer pretensions to architecture than Highweek. The South Aisle, communicating with the Nave by four arches, has a most graceful and elaborately sculptured Eastern Window. It was formerly adorned with 6 statues ; the inner moulding is charged alternately with the horse shoe, the device of the *Ferrers*, and the water bouget of the *Yards*. This Window deserves to be engraved. We

regret that the East Window of the chancel is so obstructed and obscured by a tablet ; in the event of its removal, would not the picture of the Nativity of our Lord (the handsome donation of the late James Templer, Esq.) appear to greater advantage ? The length of this Chapel was 50 feet ; breadth 29 feet and a half ; but of late it has been considerably enlarged.

At the end of the South Aisle is a Tower 51 feet high. Over its entrance are the remains of two sculptured niches once containing statues.

The Registers of Highweek and Newton Bushell commence with the 23d of January 1654. We observed many marriages during the Commonwealth, recorded as solemnized before Thomas Reynell, Esq. Justice of the Peace.

Near the entrance of Newton Bushell from Teignbridge stands an Alms-house, founded by John Gylberd, Esq.* for poor lazarus people. These unfortunate creatures are directed by the foundation deed, dated 4th October, 1538, to choose a warden yearly from amongst themselves. During the founder's life they were to pray every morning for his wealth and prosperity, and for that of the Corporation of Exeter, and after his death "for the welth of ther sowles and the sowle of Elizabeth late wyff of the said John Gylberd, daughter of Sir John Crocker, Knight, for his father Otho Gylberd, his kindred and friends, for Richard Yard, Esq. High Lord of the lands there, and for John Rowe, sergeant-at-law." Every morning and evening the poor people were to attend their Chapel "here-

* Prince confounds him with Sir John Gilbert, who died late in Queen Elizabeth's reign, and was buried with his Lady (a Chudleigh) in St. Gabriel's Chapel, in Exeter Cathedral. Folio 417, last ed. Unfortunately the Cathedral Registers of burials, beginning with 1593, throw no light on Sir John Gilbert."

after to be buylded." In James the First's reign, Gilbert Yard, Esq. made some additions to this charitable foundation.

To the Rev. THOMAS WHIPHAM, my acknowledgments are due, and are hereby given, for his polite attention to my enquiries.

CURIOSUS.

No. XVII.

ST. MARY CHURCH.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXETER AND PLYMOUTH GAZETTE.

DOMESDAY proves that St. Mary Church belonged, in the reign of Edward the Confessor, to the Cathedral of Exeter—that it was then rated at 15s. per annum, and that with Dawlish, Ide, and Sowton, it was appropriated to the maintenance of the Canons, *de dictu Canonicorum*. It is a Peculiar of the Dean and Chapter, with its dependent Chapels at Coffinswell and Kingscarwell.

The *present* fabrick cannot boast of remote antiquity; probably it is not anterior to the reign of King Richard II. By measurement I found its extreme length, including the Belfry, to be 113 feet, its breadth 43, and the height of its Tower 69 feet. On either side of the Nave is an Aisle; but whilst the Capitals of the six Pillars on the North side are boldly carved, the correspond-

ing ones on the South side are strikingly simple. We observed an octagon Font resting on a circular column. The neatness of the Church is highly creditable to its Vicar, the Rev. EDWARD KITSON. To the generosity of the late Sir THOMAS LOUIS, Bart. the parish is indebted for a noble Altar-piece, representing our blessed Redeemer taken down from the Cross before his entombment.

The only Epitaphs that I observed of any antiquity were in the South Aisle, viz. of Margaret the wife of *John Holbrine*, Esq. She was one of the daughters of William Fowlett, and died at Coffinswell, 11th of May, 1526. Her daughter Margaret followed her to the grave the 25th of June the same year. Some persons have confounded them with the *Holbeams*, in East Ogwell, whose arms, according to Sir W. Pole, p. 488, Description of Devon, are Argent, a chevron enarched sable; whereas the Leger Stone in St. Mary Church gives for the armorial bearings of *Holbrine*, a chevron in chief two torteauxes.

Did they reside at the *Barton* near Coffinswell Church?

The Registers of Burials at St. Mary Church commence with 30th March, 1641; of Christenings, 2d May; and of Marriages, 24th June.

COFFINSWELL.

Coffinswell Chapel is low, and measures, with its Tower, (which contains 4 bells, 3 of which are ancient) 72 feet and a half in length, and 26 in breadth. A North Aisle is united to the Chancel and Nave by 4 arches; on the South of the Chancel is a very small Chantry, 10 feet by 9. In a window of the North Aisle I observed a figure of the Blessed Virgin, with a label, *Ave Maria plena gracia, as*

also a fragment of the sacred name I.H.S. With an exception of an ancient Font, there is little here to arrest the attention of an antiquary.

The Parochial Registers begin with Christmas, 1560.

Daccomb, within this parish, belonged to the Abbot and Convent of *Torre*. *Simon Rede*, the last Abbott, on 30th Nov. 1538, for a fine of £15 6s. 8d. leased to Thomas and Jane Lange, Westbroke Estate, and the road "*ultra Claysacre infra Man. nrw de Daccombe*," for their lives: Rent 36s. 8d. On the 9th January following he leased the capital messuage then called "the Court Howse, and the Court Gardyn" to John and Jane Godridge, for their several lives, under the yearly rent of 11s. 8d. On the 28th of the same month and year, the said Abbot granted an estate in Daccomb, called *Noleacre* and *Fernhey*, to John and Jane Long, for the term of their lives; rent 26s. 6d.

KINGSCARSWELL.

In the evidences found in the Treasury of the Exeter Cathedral, in the time of Bishop Bronescombe (between 1258 and 1280) one was intitled "*Carta Thome Perer de Capella de Karswelle concessa Capitulo.*"

The Church of King's Carswell is 83 feet long (including the Belfry) by 39 feet. It consists of a Chancel, Nave, and a North and South Aisle. In the former Aisle are two interesting Altar-tombs. One bears the effigy of a Knight, said to be Sir John Dynham,* with his pointed helmet, mail gorget, and surcoat, also the figure of his lady, Jane, daughter of Sir Thomas Courtenay, and

* On 22d Sept. 1387, Bishop Brantingham licensed Sir John Dynham and Eleanor his wife, to have divine service performed in their Chapels or Oratories within their manors of Hartland, *Carswell*, *Notewelle* (Nutwell, now the seat of Sir Trayton Fuller Elliot Drake,) and *Ilswington*.

Muriel* his wife. She is splendidly robed, and has on a rich coronet. This noble sepulchral monument is engraved in Lyson's History of Devon, vol. 1, p. cccxxvi. In the same Aisle is another recumbent figure of a lady with a reticulated head-dress, two angels at her head, and a wyvern at her feet.

It is sickening to behold the mutilation of monuments so illustrative of the costume of the age, and to witness the successful havoc of the *Daubers*, who believe that,—try what you please, there is nothing like lime,—and that heraldic achievements, foliage, veils, wimples, embroidery, lace-work, coronets, necklaces, and all the varieties of jewellery, must be clotted and overloaded with detestable whitewash. These enemies of good taste and the Arts ought to be overlooked in the Church with jealous suspicion. In the South Aisle was another monument; but that has been sacrificed to the convenience of a pew.

Formerly the Registers of Kingscarswell were left to the mercy of parishioners, as indifferent to their value as the whitewashers here have shewed themselves to the Arts; in consequence, the records of Baptisms and Burials before the year 1702 are destroyed, and none of Marriages prior to the year 1712 are now extant.

Of these three parishes Mr. Polwhele has hardly condescended to specify the names.

To the Rev. EDWARD KITSON and Rev. AARON NECHES, I have to offer my best thanks for their personal attentions

* This Muriel was daughter of Sir John de Molis, alias Mules, who died in 1337, and succeeded her father in the Manor of Kingscarswell, and the Hundred of Haytor, &c. See p. 620, vol. 1, of Dugdale's Baronage. But Q. if the lady buried here be not a Despenser, or a Beauchamp?

N. B. In 1267, Roger de Molis obtained of K. Henry III. a Market and Fair for King's Carswell.

when I visited their Churches, and for their obliging communications.

CURIOSUS.

Since writing the above I have been honored with the following letter from the Rev. EDWARD KITSON, above mentioned :—

“ St. Mary Church, Nov. 23, 1824.

“ Dear Sir,—Since I had the pleasure of seeing you here, I have made what I consider rather an interesting and curious discovery. On examining the lower part of our Font, I discovered traces of sculpture, the greater part of which had been sunk in the earth to the depth of about a foot. This induced me to remove the stone from its obscure station in the rubbish, and thus was brought to light what was undoubtedly the original Saxon Font, which appears to me to be of very considerable antiquity.

“ As it lately stood, it resembled in shape the funnel of a glass house ; the original top having by inversion been made to serve the purpose of a base, supporting the modern top, of a much later construction ; so that we have for a considerable time had a double Font, as it were ; there being cavities both at the upper and lower end, for baptismal purposes. The larger end of the ancient stone is ornamented with a rim of about twelve inches in depth, consisting of seven rings, intersecting each other, and decorated with beads or studs ; within these rings are figures of the rudest execution and grotesque character, and are as follow ;

1st.—A bird, I think a cock, with a bunch of grapes in its beak.

2d.—A boar baited by a dog.

3d.—A man with a bugle in his right hand, and a dog by his right side, his left hand holding a spear.

4th.—What appears designed to represent an eagle having in his beak a human head, and an arm holding a sword.

5th.—A figure sitting in a chair, playing on a harp.

6th.—A man on horseback, blowing a bugle, which he holds in his left hand, with a sword in his right.

7th.—A quadruped, apparently a dog, with the head regardant.

“When the stone is thoroughly cleared of the earth, &c. and the parts distinctly made out, I will endeavour to make a drawing of the sculpture, and send it to you for your acceptance.

“Should you deem this communication of any value, you are at full liberty to make whatever use of it you think proper in your intended account of our Parish Church.

“I am, Sir,

“With great respect,

“Your very obedient Servant,

“EDWARD KITSON.”*

* On Monday, 2d July, 1827, this respected and worthy Clergyman died almost suddenly. He had performed both the services of his church on the preceding day, and whilst engaged in catechising the children of his parish, was seized with a fit of apoplexy, which terminated his valuable life.

No. XVIII.

BOVEY TRACEY, or SOUTH BOVEY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXETER AND PLYMOUTH
GAZETTE.

A LONG flight of steps gives to this Church an imposing appearance ; but it is remarkable, that persons ascending here to worship their crucified Redeemer, must literally begin with treading on the Cross. Can this Japanese custom be sanctioned by that piety, which now restores the Cross to the summit of our Parish Churches ?

Bovey Tracey was the ancient manor of the Tracys, Barons of Barnstaple. The heir of that Sir Wm. Tracy* who took the lead in the assassination of St. Thomas of Canterbury, A. D. 1170, may have first erected a Church here. The present fabric, dedicated to that martyred Archbishop, and coeval I suppose with Edward the Third's reign, is of considerable dimensions, being 83 feet long, (and with the belfry, 14 feet more) by 40 wide. We were much pleased with its general view, but cannot help lamenting, that the sides of the Pulpit should be disfigured

*Giraldus Cambrensis, p. 426, vol. 2, *Anglia Sacra*, says that Sir William was the principal of the four murderers, *quatuor illorum prius*, and that immediately after the act he hurried down to Bartholomew, Bishop of Exeter, in whose diocese he had considerable estates, *in cuius Diocesi terras amplias habebat*.—“ Within three years after the bloody deed, Sir William died at Cosenza in Calabria, with every sentiment of unfeigned repentance.

with some statues of plaster, hideously streaked with paint; and that a Screen of such exquisite workmanship should be overtopped with a tasteless and unseemly Gallery. This reminded us of the beginning of Horace's Book, *De Arte Poetica*,—

Humano capiti cervicem, &c.

On either side of the arched Nave is a North and South Aisle. Would it not be better, that the sculptured nodi or orbs on the flat ceiling of the Aisles were relieved from the blue painting, and that the five Pillars on either side were no longer mocked with marble?

The Prior and Brethren of St. John's Hospital,* at Bridgewater, used to present to this Vicarage from the reign of Henry III. until the period of the Reformation. In fol. 46 of Bishop Bronescombe's Register is a decision of that Prelate in a reference made to him by Henry† de Tracy, the Lord of the Manor, and John de Wolfinton, then Vicar of the Church. The Vicar laid claim to the tithes of the mills there, and of a field called *Broadmede*, all belonging to the said Lord, who resisted the claim, and contended that such tithes had been assigned *ab*

*This community professed the rule of *St. Augustine*. Anthony Parkinson, p. 21, part 2, *Collectanea Anglo Minoritica*, has adopted the error of *Speed* by calling it a *Franciscan* convent, and assigned to it, the *Hospital's* income at the dissolution, viz. £120 19s. 14d. The fact is, this Hospital had been founded by William Lord Brewer before the existence of the Franciscan order.

† This Henry (who was the last Baron of Barnstaple of the name of Tracy, and whose only daughter, Matilda, married Nicholas Martyn, Lord of Dartington,) obtained of King Henry III. A. D. 1259, a market at Bovey on Thursday, and a fair for 3 days at the feast of St. Thomas of Canterbury's Translation, 7th July.

N. B. Sir W. Pole, p. 14; *Description of Devon*, says, "the Dwelling House of this Lord Henry Tracy was at Tavistock."—Q. if not Tawstock.

enjoined, to the support of a perpetual Chaplain, whose duty it was to celebrate the *masses* of Our Lady in the said Church, and that for 40 years or more, this Chaplain, and not the Vicar, had regularly taken the said tithes. In January, 1270, Bp. Brionescombe gave judgment in the case by assigning the tithes in question to the Vicar, binding him to find a Chaplain to celebrate for the patrons, parishioners, and benefactors of the Church, and enjoined the parishioners to pay to the Vicar the sum of two marks at Easter and Michaelmas, towards the support of the said Chaplain. In default of such payment on their part, the Vicar was to be exonerated from finding a Chaplain. Should the Vicar however neglect for the space of a month to fill up the vacancy occasioned by the death or removal of the Chaplain, the parishioners then were to be entitled to present a Chaplain to the Archdeacon, and the person so presented was to receive the tithes of the mills and of *Broadmede*, as also the pension of the two marks.

The principal armorial bearings in the Church are of Archbishop Laud, Bishop Hall, and of the families of Eveleigh, Stawell, Hele, and Southcott.

Indhio, in this parish, was some time a Priory, says Sir W. Pole, p. 266, Risdon repeats the same assertion, p. 134. Polwhele does the same, p. 496. After diligent enquiry we believe this to be an error, by confounding the *property* with the *Priory* or Hospital itself at Bridgwater. If it had been a religious establishment, doubtless it would have been noticed in the Registers of the See of Exeter. It is very certain the house at Indhio was built by John

Southcott,* of Bovey Tracey, Esq. who had realized a fortune as a steward and a tithe-holder, under several monasteries in Devonshire.

CURIOSUS.

No. XIX.

WOOLBOROUGH.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXETER AND PLYMOUTH GAZETTE.

OF the early history of this Church, we know but little. William Lord Brewer, in 1196, granted the town of Woolboro', with the advowson of its Church, to his splendid foundation of Torre Abbey. It formed part of its possessions until the final dissolution of that monastery, 23d Feb. 1539.† In several leases granted by Simon Rede, the last Abbott of Torre, I meet with the following places “*infra manerium nostrum de Woolborough, Strayer Park, Hokelonde, Rowses Hill, Rowses Garden, Hethefield, Henborough, Gaulemore, Bromehill, Midellparke, Longparke, Sampford Mede, and Woolborough Mede.*”

The Parish Church stands on an elevated situation, and

* He died 16th Sept. 1556, and was buried at Shillingford.

† Edward Courtenay, Earl of Devon, by deed, dated Tiverton, 28th June, Anno 12 Hen. IV. confirmed to the Abbey this grant of William Briwerr *de tota villa de Welleburgh*; as also the Prebend of *Aueckist* made to the Abbey by Robt. and Matilda Courtenay, as also the grant of an estate called *Holrigg*, which Petronilla de Holrigg had made to the Abbey.

is of considerable dimensions, being full 118 feet long by 40 wide, in the interior. The Nave opens into a North and South Aisle, by 6 arches. It must be evident to every observer, that the greater part of the South Aisle is comparatively modern; on its Eastern extremity may be seen from the church-yard the date A^o. D^o. M^o. V^e. XVI. With the exception of a most ancient Font, I saw but little here to challenge attention. In a window of the Chancel is the inscription, “*Orate pro omnibus benefactoribus qui istam fenestram vitrari fecerunt.*” In other windows I observed the figures of SS. Barbara and Mary Magdalene, and the well-known arms of Courtenay, Ferrers, Yard, Archdeacon Reynell, and a few others, which I could not decypher. Until the dissolution of Tor Abbey, I believe the Parish Church was usually served by one of its Canons.

The Registers of Woolborough, as I am informed by the Rev. JOHN BRADFORD, commence with the 15th of Nov. 1558.—Of St. Leonard's Chapel, in Newton Abbot, “*Capella Sci Leonardi apud Nywaton Abbatis,*” mention is made in a document of 29th May, 1350; see fol. 91, vol. 3, of Bp. Grandisson's Register. It occurs again in the case of William Michel, Abbot of Torre and the Convent there, *versus* the Burgesses of Newton Abbott, and which was referred, on 2d March, 1411, to Robert Frenshe and William Gybbe, Justices of our Lord the King (Henry IV.) then holding the assizes at Exeter.

The Abbot and Convent, as Lords of the Manor of Woolborough, of which Manor the town of Newton Abbot is parcel, and as impropriate Rectors of Woolborough Church, within which parish St. Leonard's chapel is situated, complained of divers trespasses committed by the Burgesses

of Newton Abbot aforesaid, by having disseised them of one messuage, and half an acre of land, in Newton Abbot, by their having broken down certain fences and a gate in Woolboro', by having prevented the bailiffs of the Abbey from levying the tolls, customs, and other profits of the fairs and market within the town aforesaid; by having turned cattle into the pastures of Woolboro', by having introduced Clergymen into St. Leonard's Chapel, to the prejudice of the rights of the mother church, and by having holden courts without the authority of the Abbot, and even in defiance of his orders. In reply the Burgesses alleged, that the messuage complained of was St. Leonard's Chapel, which had been used by the burgesses and inhabitants from time immemorial; that the land said to be disseised was situate in the middle of the High-street; at the east end of the said Chapel; that on the said land were fixed shambles and stands, where tradesmen laid out their goods on fairs and market days, and butchers exposed their meat, and bakers their bread; that at other times, according to established custom, the burgesses and inhabitants there exposed fish, wool, clothes, &c. ; that the burgesses yearly elected from amongst themselves a head-bailiff and other officers; that they had rented the tolls of the fairs and markets from the Abbot and Convent, and had regularly paid the stipulated rent. As to the breaking of the fences and gate, that a wood belonging to the Abbot and Convent lay between the town and the Parish Church, through which wood was the ancient church-path. This path had been blocked up by the Abbot's servants, and they submitted that they had but exercised a just right in breaking down the fence and removing the gate. With respect to the pasturage, it had

been enjoyed by the tenants of the Abbey from time immemorial. The judges above-mentioned, decided on 4th March, that the free tenure of S. Leonard's Chapel, as well as the land occupied by the lands and shambles were clearly vested in the Abbot and Convent of Torre; but that the public was entitled to the free use of the Chapel; all offerings, oblations, and profits, however, belonging to the Abbot and Convent; the absolute right of the latter to the stalls and shambles was also fully admitted; but accompanied with a recommendation of farming them to the head bailiff, at a fixed annual rent.

In this parish is *Ford-House*. Risdon, p. 137, mistakes it for some religious establishment. I think the building was begun by Sir Richard Reynell, towards the reign of Queen Elizabeth's reign, and completed early in K. James the First's. Jane, the only surviving child of this Sir Richard, by his wife (Lucy Brandon) married Sir Wm. Waller, Knt. The fruit of this marriage was Richard, baptised in Exeter Cathedral, 28th Oct. 1630, who died unmarried, and Margaret, married to Sir Wm. Courtenay, (the sixth of that name) of Powderham, Bart. Her Ladyship having brought him nineteen children, died 19th January, 1693. The Baronet departed this life 4th Aug. 1702, æt. 74. See p. 303 of Cleveland's history of the Courtenay family.

CURIOSUS.

No. XX.

TORRE MOHUN.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXETER AND PLYMOUTH
GAZETTE.

THE Parish Church here was appropriated by William Lord Brewer to his foundation of Tor Abbey.* The present fabric, however, can have no pretensions to such antiquity; but was probably erected a full century later. It measures in its greatest length 70 feet by 42. A North and a South Aisle communicate with the Nave by 4 arches; but it is lamentable to witness the total disregard of symmetry and character in the tracery of the windows of the former Aisle. In consequence of the accumulation of interments within the walls, may we be allowed to recommend more attention to the ventilation of the Church? At the western end is a Gallery, erected in the year 1760: it was charged with heraldic shields, but many have been sacrificed to make way for additional wings. Amongst those that remain we observed Dennis, Southcott, Cary, Ridgway, Copleston, Seymour, &c.

The inscriptions on the monument of *Ridgeway*, in the South Aisle may be seen in Prince's "Worthies of Devon." On the outer corbels of the East Window of the Chancel are the arms of Brewer, Mohun, and Tor Abbey. In a

* P. 652, 4. Vol. II, Dugdale's *Monasticon*, London, 1661.
—Adam, appointed the first Abbot, with six Canons, from Welbeck, arrived at Torre on 25th March, 1196.

deed now before me, entitled "*pro domo Ecclesiae vocata Church House,*" and dated 27th May, 1520, I read that Thomas Dyere, Abbot of Our Saviour's Church of Torre, and the convent of the same place, granted and confirmed to Thomas Worcester, John Bartlett, sen. William Colcott, Roger Bartlett, jun. John Waye, Thomas Colcott, John Bartlett, jun. Thomas Waye, Thomas Stremer, and Thomas Bishop, a parcel of land in Torre Mohun, lying and being there, between Torre Mohun on the South, the land of John Cokeman on the west, the King's highway on the north, and the Church-path on the east, containing 70 feet in length and 24 in breadth, to hold the same to the ten persons above-mentioned and their assigns for ever, to the use, behoof, and profit of the Parish Church of Tor Mohun, "*ad usum, opus et proficuum Ecclesiae parochialis,*" under the yearly rent to the Abbot and convent, and their successors, of 16d. at Michaelmas, in lieu of all other services and demands. This building, lately enlarged, serves now for the parish workhouse. The registers of Tor Church begin with the year 1628.

Behind the east end of the parish Church are remains of an ancient building and many traces of foundations. Here, I imagine the Brewers and Mohuns resided; Camden says, in his Britannia, the Wakes also. Baldwin Wake did certainly marry Isabella, the daughter of Wm. Lord Brewer; and though he may have visited, I can discover no instance of his family taking up its residence here. In folio 654, vol. 2, of Monasticon, is the agreement between Simon, Abbott of Torre, and Reginald de Mohun, dated Tuesday before Easter, 1241, relating to the erection of a domestic Chapel by the latter in his court-house

at Torre, "*in curia sua de Thorre.*" Here this illustrious nobleman closed his life sixteen years later. His end is related in the register of Newenham Abbey, fol. 26, and I think may prove interesting to our readers.

"In the year of our Lord, 1257, on Sunday 20th of January, the feast of Saints Fabian and Sebastian, Reginald de Mohun, the Lord of Dunstorr, and Founder of Newenham Abbey, entered the way of all flesh, at Torre, in Devonshire. His end was this. On being attacked by severe illness at Torre, he sent for a Franciscan Friar, called Henry, at that time a learned professor of theology at Oxford. The said Friar arrived at Torre, on the Wednesday before Reginald's death, and received his humble, entire, and sincere confession. Early on the Friday morning, as the said Friar entered the bed-room, Reginald thus addressed him:—"I have had a vision this night; I imagined myself to be in the Church of the White Monks, and when on the point of leaving it, a venerable personage, habited like a pilgrim, presented himself, and accosted me thus: 'Reginald, I leave it to your option either to come to me now in safety and without hazard, or to await until the week next before Easter, exposed to danger.' My reply was, 'My Lord I will not wait, but will follow you forthwith.' As I was preparing to follow him, he said, 'No, not as yet, but you shall securely join me on the third day.' 'This was my dream and vision.'" The Confessor, after administering motives of consolation, returned to his own chamber, and during a short slumber, dreamed that he was present in the aforesaid Cistercian Monastery, and beheld a venerable person attired in white, conducting a boy more radiant than the sun, and vested in a robe

brighter than chrystal, from the baptiſmal font towards the Altar. On enquiry whose beautiful child this was, the person answered, ' This is the soul of the venerable Reginald of Mohun.' The third day arriving, Reginald requested Henry to recite *Prime et Terce*, ' as my hour (he said) is approaching;' for he was in the habit of hearing repeated the whole divine office. The Friar having done so, went to the Abbey Church to celebrate Mass. The Intriſt was *Circumdederunt me, &c.* Mass being over, the said Friar returned in his priestly vestments bringing with him the *Viaticum* to fortify the Lord Reginald, with the receiving of the body and blood of Christ. As he entered the bed-chamber, Reginald was anxious to rise, but could not from excessive weakness. About ten persons were present, to whom he said, ' why not assist me to meet my Saviour and Redeemer?' And these were his last words. Henry then gave him the *Communion*, and afterwards the *extreme unction*, and then began with the Priests and Clerks the recommendation of a departing soul. At the end of these prayers, Reginald being still alive, they began to repeat them; and whilst they were reciting the words, ' *All ye Saints pray for him,*' without a groan or apparent agony, he slept in the Lord. His corpse was removed to Newnham, and deposited on the left side of the High Altar." The Registrar then adds, "When the pavement of the Sanctuary of our Conventual Church was re-laid, in the year of our Lord 1333, the body of the said founder (seventy-five years after its interment) was found in the sarcophagus perfectly incorrupt and uninjured, and exhaling a fragrant odour. For three days it lay exposed to public view; *I saw it and felt it; quod*

*quidam corpus vidi, palpavi; et per triduum puplice disco-
pertum jacuit, Anno Domini MCCCXXXIII.*"

Torwood Grange, " *Grangia de Torwoode*," was granted to Sir Thomas Dennis, on 25th June, 1541.

On 24th Feb. 1553, King Edward IV. granted to John Ridgeway,* and John Petre, Esquires, in consideration of the sum of 458*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* paid to Sir Edmuud Beauchamp, Knight, the whole manor of *Odicknolle*† and *Chamleigh*, lately belonging to Christchurch, Hants, the manor of Torr Mohun, and all appurtenances and rights in *Odicknolle*, *Chamleigh*, *Egeynswell*, *Southwillberg*, and *Tormoham*, in the county of Devon; also *Halyngcombe*, containing about 16 acres in the parish of Ley, in Somersetshire, once belonging, " *Gilde de Stokelake alias dicte Michell Stoke*" in Dowling parish, Somersetshire; also an estate called *Lamondfilde*, in Camerton Parish, Somersetshire, once the property of the Priory of Bath, " *nuper PRIORATUI de Bathe, modo dissoluto quondam spectantem et pertinentem.*"

† This *Ridgeway* had been appointed one of the Stewards to Torr Abbey just before its dissolution, viz, 8th January, 30th of Henry VIII. and like many others in the same capacity succeeded in realizing a considerable fortune. N. B. Thos. Ridgeway, his grandson, was created Earl of Londonderry.

* Sixty-four acres and a half in " *Odicknolle*, *Welbergh*, and *Ogenswell*," with 72*s.* 2*d.* rent, had been granted to Christchurch by Hugh Courtenay, Earl of Devon, in April, 1336.

N. B. Robert, Earl of Londonderry, presented a petition to the Worshipful John Manley, Esq. Steward of the Stannary Courts of Devon, stating that on 10th April, 1695, he was seized of three several tin works, situate in the parishes of Tor Mohun and St. Mary Church; that great quantities of tin ore were digged up and thrown on the grass of the said several and respective tin works; that he had erected a stamping mill, and had expended upwards of £500 in his enterprise, but complained that Edward Cary, of Tor-Abbey, Esq. and others, had diverted the water course from the said stamping mill.

The very ancient, and curious chapel of *St. Michael* (sometimes called St. Mary's) on the hill, may have been intended for a sea mark.

Mr. EDITOR.—I have now redeemed my pledge of attempting to illustrate the history of some of our Parish Churches. In this interesting pursuit I claim no other merit than of being a pioneer to my betters. When I can command more leisure, I shall not unwillingly return to my labors. Thanking the public for their encouragement I take my leave for the present, always remaining

Your faithful servant,

CURIOSUS.

January 1, 1825.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXETER AND PLYMOUTH
GAZETTE.

SIR,

MY learned friend *Curiosus* having suspended his communications relative to our Ecclesiastical Antiquities, I have been induced to follow up his labours—“ *hanc passibus aequis.*” The following account of the Church at Moreton Hampstead is at your service, and I intend to forward to you some similar articles, in the hope that *Curiosus* may shortly resume his illustrations.

DEVONIENSIS,

No. XXI.

MORETON HAMPSTEAD.

THE Manor of Moreton became the property of the Courtenays, most probably by a grant from the Crown, in the reign of Edward I. It has ever since remained with that family, and is now vested in Viscount Courtenay. The patronage of the Rectory has accompanied the manor.

The Church is situated at the east end of the town, and is dedicated to St. Andrew ; it is a respectable fabric, of the style of pointed architecture which prevailed in the 15th century, and consists of a nave, connected with north and south aisles by five arches, a chancel, a vestry, and a south porch ; its extreme length exceeds 80 feet, and its breadth 40 feet. The windows are large, and abound with ramified tracery. The arches in the interior are obtusely pointed, and spring from plain octagonal columns. The screen is in good preservation, and adorned with scrolls of vine leaves, bunches of grapes, &c. and surrounded with borders of quatrefoils, inclosing roses. The north and south fronts of the Church, and the porch, are embattled ; there are likewise two small embattled turrets, one on each side, which led up to the rood loft. The tower contains six good bells ; and on the west side, over the belfry door, are three niches. The communion table, pulpit, and gallery, are handsome, but modern.

On the north wall of the chancel there is a tablet to the memory of Francis Whiddon, A. M. who was 39 years Minister of this parish, and died Jan. 5, A. D. 1656, *etatis* 65. He was son of Francis Whiddon, of Whiddon, in Chagford, Esq. and married Ann, the daughter of John Southmead, of Wray, gent. Arms—A chevron between 3 pheons' heads, a crescent for difference.—Whiddon, impaling ; per fess wavy gules and ermine, in chief an eagle displayed Or.—Southmead.* On the south wall of the chancel is a handsome marble monument to the

* Whiddon was author of a small tract, "The Topaz, or Heart Jewel, 1656."

memory of the late Dr. Fynes, who was 38 years Rector of the parish ; he died April 29, 1774, æstat. 79.

The communion-plate is handsome. The parish registers commence in 1603, and are perfect from that time.

On the 30th May, 1453, Peter Courtenay was constituted to the rectory of Moreton, on the death of Walter Colles, Precentor of Exeter. He was third son of the patron, Sir Philip Courtenay, and on the 8th of June, 1453, was collated to the Archdeaconry of Exeter, afterwards its Dean and Bishop, and translated to Winchester.

At *Docombe*, a manor belonging to the Dean and Chapter of Canterbury, in this parish, there is a small Chapel, now desecrated. In a copy of an old presentment roll in my possession, I find mention made of the Chaplain.

Mr. Polwhele, in his work, which he *facetiously* calls the History of Devonshire, has hardly condescended to notice the market town and large parish of Moreton Hampstead.

DEVONIENSIS.

No. XXII.

ILSINGTON.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXETER AND PLYMOUTH GAZETTE.

THE village of Ilseniton is in a high situation, at the foot of the High Tor Downs. From the church-yard there are fine views of the country to the south-east.

The Church is an interesting fabric, and has not undergone so many tasteless alterations as many of our country Churches unfortunately have ; it is dedicated to St. Michael, and consists of a nave, connected with the side aisles by five arches springing from slender clustered columns, a transept, chancel, and south porch. The body of the Church was erected in the beginning of the 15th century ; the windows are large and handsome ; the arches are obtuse ; the upper part of the north aisle is at least a century older than the nave ; the windows are narrow and pointed. The extreme length, including the belfry, is 97 feet, the breadth of the nave and aisles, 38 feet, and of the transept, 62 feet ; on the south side of the chancel there was a piscina, now plastered up. The screen is handsome, and tolerably perfect, richly ornamented with tracery of grapes, vine foliage and acorns, and an under border of quatrefoils. The steps to the rood-loft remain. Some of the old open seats are still left ; they are handsomely carved and ornamented with crockets, finials, and quatrefoils ; the arms of Beaumont and Pomeroy appear on these carvings. The corbels, on which the abutments of the arches rest on the transept, are adorned with rude figures in small niches, representing ecclesiastics holding staffs, books, and musical instruments. In the bosses of the wood-work of the roof are figures of animals, knots, heads, &c. ; the carving is of the style of the 13th century, and the moulding is rich. The plain stone altar-piece was given by the late Mr. Hale, of Ingdon. In the windows of the chancel are a few pieces of painted glass, representing heads of the Virgin, likewise a rich canopy of tabernacle work. In the upper window of the

south aisle, on an escutcheon, are three crescents surmounted with crosses Or, a symbol of the triumph of Christianity over Mahometanism. The communion plate is handsome, the gift of the Rev. Philip Nanson, a former Vicar. The north and south fronts, and the porch, are embattled; at the western extremity of the north front is a small circular embattled turret, rising above the roof. The tower contains five bells.

At the end of the north transept, on an altar tomb, under a pointed sepulchral arch, is a full-length stone figure of a Lady, clothed in a long gown, mantle and veil. This monument is in a very decayed state, and is of the 13th century. It was most probably erected for one of the Dinham family, who at that time possessed the Manor.

On a grave-stone near the south entrance is the following imperfect inscription, in text hand: "*Beati sunt qui.*" On the same stone, are some curious figures, evidently more ancient than the inscription, and similar to the rude ornaments occasionally met with on grave-stones, and conjectured to be Saxon.

The upper part of the north aisle is appropriated to Bagtor, a seat of the late Lord Ashburton, and formerly the residence of the Ford family. The upper part of the south aisle is appropriated to Ingsdon, formerly the residence of the Beaumont and Pomeroy families. In these aisles are some monumental inscriptions to the memory of the Fords and the Pomeroy's.

After the defeat of Lord Wentworth's brigade by Cromwell, on the 9th of January, 1646, near Bovey Tracey, Ilshington Church was occupied for a while as a

place of retreat by some of the fugitives, who quitted it on the approach of Cromwell's army. Until the year 1338, Plympton Priory enjoyed the appropriation of Ilsington Church ; it was then annexed to the Collegiate Church of St. Mary Ottery, and at the Reformation was granted to the Dean and Canons of Windsor, who are now the patrons of the Vicarage, and impro priators of the great tithes, under whom they are held on lease by Miss Filmore. Bishop Grandisson taxed the Vicarage, 12th April, 1342, when it was endowed with the small tithes, oblations, mortuaries, &c. and a portion of the glebe lands. The Vicar was to keep a lamp burning day and night throughout the year, over a shrine in the Church of St. Mary Ottery, or to pay annually one mark sterling for the purpose to the said Collegiate Church. " *Dictus etiam Vicarius et successores sui teneant unam lampadem ardentem cum oleo de die, et mortuarium, cum sepe de nocte per totum annum in Ecclesia Sanctæ Mariæ de Ottery prædicta suis sumptibus, vel ad idem opus unam marcum sterlingorum dicto collegio solvere annuatim.*"*

Bishop Brantingham, 22d Sept. 1387, licensed Sir John Dinham, and Eleanor his wife, to have an oratory in their manor of Ilsington.

The register, which commences in 1558, (1 Eliz.) is perfect from that time, and is one of the best preserved I have ever had an opportunity of consulting.

Some further particulars of this Church, so interesting to the antiquary, may hereafter be expected, in a work

* From a copy of the Endowment in the possession of Miss Filmore.

now preparing for the press, on the "Historical and Monumental Antiquities of the Hundred of Teinbridge."

I have to acknowledge the kind and liberal assistance I have received from the Rev. J. PALK, late Vicar of Ilsington, in my researches respecting this Church.

DEVONIENSIS.

No. XXIII.

LUSTLEIGH.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXETER AND PLYMOUTH GAZETTE.

LUSTLEIGH Church is situated in a sequestered valley, four miles south-east of Moreton, and amidst some of the most beautiful scenery in the county. The tower, rising above the trees, perfectly harmonizes with the adjoining woods and rocky Tors.

The Church is small and low, but the state of repair in which it is kept is creditable to the parishioners. It is dedicated to St. John the Baptist, and consists of a nave, a north aisle connected with the nave by four obtuse arches, springing from clustered columns, a south transept, a chancel, and a south porch. The chancel and transept, from their disproportionate size, must have originally belonged to a larger edifice than the present body of the Church, and were erected about the commence-

ment of the 14th century. The nave is at least a century later; the arches are obtusely pointed. The screen is perfect, and much adorned with the usual ornaments —vine-leaves, grapes, and tracery; in the lower compartment is a row of small carved figures, several of them holding labels. On the south side of the chancel are three sedilia, of equal height, with plain trefoil, arched heads, and a double piscina, and likewise several brackets. On the north side is a monumental arch, rather sunk. The arch connecting the nave with the belfry is now blocked up, some singing-seats being raised against it. In the floor at the east end of the aisle are a few ornamented tiles. In the north windows there was formerly a considerable quantity of painted glass, a great portion of which has been removed, and only a few figures are now left:—a Virgin and Child; St. Michael treading on the Dragon, his hands clasped, and holding a lance surmounted with a cross; St. James, his staff in one hand, a book in the other; a Bishop in the attitude of prayer. The steps leading to the rood-loft are still left. An ancient circular font, rudely formed, the shaft surrounded with a fascia. The porch is embattled. On the right, as you enter, are the remains of a small column, ornamented and apparently out of place. The tower is low, and contains four bells. The Church is well seated, and very neat; in 1807 it was injured by lightning, the effects of which are pointed out in the chancel.

In the transept, at the south end, on an altar tomb, are the effigies of a Knight, in stone; this monument is 5 feet in length, and is in a state of great decay from the damp. It is said to have been originally cross-legged; the legs rest on an animal; one hand supports a shield, but the

arms are completely obliterated ; the helmet is rounded, and the vizor open ; it appears to be of the 14th century. Mr. Lysons, who saw this monument some years since, before it was so much mutilated, describes it as a "Knight in a surcoat, with his right hand on his shield, the left on his sword." This monument is likewise mentioned by Risdon, p. 333 :—" In an aisle of this Church is a tomb, with the statue of a Knight cut thereon, cross-legged, in stone, on whose shield are three lions between six cross crosslets, by which I conceive it was one of the family of Prouse." The same author has preserved a mandate from Grandisson, Bishop of Exeter, ordering the body of Sir William Prouse to be removed to Lustleigh from Holberton, where he had been interred contrary to the directions of his will. It has been conjectured, therefore, that this monument is that of Sir William Prouse ; several cross crosslets are cut on the helmet.

In the north aisle are two monumental arches ; one is completely blocked up by the pews ; and the other, containing the effigies of a Lady, is nearly so. Mr. Lysons says, " In the north aisle, under two obtuse arches, are the effigies of a Knight, in armour, and his Lady ; he has his right hand on his shield ; she is habited in a long gown." Risdon likewise alludes to these monuments : " Another tomb there is arched over, where some say the Lord Dynham and his Lady were interred, whose pictures are to be seen very glorious in a glass window, having their armories between them, and likewise in their surcoats, escutcheons of arms."*

* By Lord Dynham, he must mean Sir Robert Dynham. The arms of that family are—gules, 4 fusils in fess ermine.

The greatest curiosity connected with the church is the inscribed stone at the threshold; various conjectures have been formed concerning the letters, but nothing satisfactory has ever been offered; they bear the greatest resemblance to Greek; and a Greek inscription, with letters very similar, was observed by Mr. Morier, at Nakshi Rustam, near Persepolis, and may be seen in the first volume of his "Travels through Persia."*

The communion plate formerly consisted of a chalice only, the gift of the Rev. Edward Basill, a former Rector, who died Jan. 6, 1667. The Rev. WILLIAM DAVY made a handsome present to the Church, of a flagon, and two patens, with the following inscription: "The gift of Wm. DAVY, (aged 78) 36 years curate of Lustleigh, to that parish, for the use of the sacrament for ever: 1822."†

The Register commences in the year 1631, and is perfect from that time.

DEVONIENSIS.

* "The inscription at Lustleigh might be that of a grave-stone, from the circumstance of burying in church porches in very remote times."—Letter from T. Northmore, Esq.

† This venerable Clergyman died on the 12th June, 1826, astat. 83. By his will he devised a meadow, worth above 300*l.* for the endowment of a school in this parish, to teach poor children to read. He also gave 10*l.* towards building a school-house. A short time before his death, he was presented to the Vicarage of Winkleigh, by the Bishop of Exeter.

No. XXIV.

NORTH BOVEY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXETER AND PLYMOUTH
GAZETTE.

NORTH BOVEY is a wild rocky parish, on the borders of Dartmoor. The Manor, at the time of the Domesday Survey, was a part of the Barony of Totnes, and was held by Tergesius under Judhel de Toteness. It afterwards passed by intermarriages and alienations through the families of Pipard, Warrin Lord Lisle, Berkeley, Beauchamp Earl of Warwick, Neville, Paulet, and Langdon. John Langdon, Esq. the last of the family, who died in 1742, left the Manor to his brother-in-law, Sir William Courtenay, of Powderham, whose grandson, Viscount Courtenay, now possesses it. The patronage of the Rectory has accompanied the manor.

The Church, dedicated to St. John the Baptist, is a respectable fabric, in good repair, firmly built of granite, and of the pointed style of the 15th century : it possesses no architectural beauty; the arches are obtusely pointed, and in repairing the windows, some of the mullions and tracery work have been entirely removed. The interior consists of a nave, connected with side aisles by five arches, springing from clumsy octagonal columns, and a south porch and chancel. The screen remains, but has sustained some injury ; it is adorned with foliage and

quatre-foils. There are but few pews, the old low seats being still left ; they add much to the appearance of the interior, as they are in unison with the original architecture of the building, and are greatly superior in accommodation to the ugly square boxes of all sizes and forms, with which the greater part of our Churches are deformed. In the upper compartments of several windows of the north aisle, are a few fragments of painted glass, representing figures of animals, birds, and flowers ; one of the heads has its tongue protruded.* The Church underwent considerable repairs in 1759, when a neat gallery and pulpit were erected. The altar-piece is neat and appropriate. The tower is 70 feet in height, and contains six bells. On a grave-stone in the chancel—"Here lyeth the body of George Ivie, the Rector of this parish, who died February 8th, Anno Dom. 1704."—Arms, quarterly first and fourth—Arg. a lion rampant gules. Ivie, second and third—Arg. a fess raguly gules between three annulets, Sab. Viell. On a tablet against the north wall of the Chancel—"Hereunder lyeth the body of Thomas Parr, Rector of this parish 29 years, who was buried January 12, 1733. And at his death gave five pounds to the poor day-labourers of this parish ; and likewise three pounds yearly for the education of poor children of the said

*Heads with protruded tongues are frequently observed in our Churches in the carved work of the roofs, or in the stained glass in the windows. Similar figures have been found on pateræ and terra-cottas taken from tombs in Greece, and the southern provinces of Italy. Mr. Dodwell has noticed the same figures on Grecian coins. Dr. Clarke, in his "Greek Marbles," has a dissertation on these antiquities ; he considers them to be symbols of mortality. In the same work there is an interesting letter from the Earl of Aberdeen on the same subject.

parish for ever, to be paid out of the estate of *Higher Langdon* after one life."*

The parish register commences in 1572; the first volume down to the year 1691, is in a mutilated state. During the time of the Commonwealth are the entries of several marriages performed before Rowland Whiddon and Thomas Reynell, Justices of the Peace.

The earliest Incumbent, of whom I can find any record, is John de Coleshull, who was instituted 24th April, 1279, on the presentation of Sir Thomas Pypard.

DEVONIENSIS.

No. XXV.

GLYSTWYCK, OR CLYST St. GEORGE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXETER AND PLYMOUTH GAZETTE

CLYSTWYCK, usually called Clyst St. George,† from its Patron Saint, belonged in the reign of K. Henry III. to the Abbey de Valle Sanctæ Marie in Normandy.‡ How the right of patronage was transferred to the Prior and Convent of Merton, in Surrey, I have not been able to

* This legacy is regularly paid to the parish school.

† The Church is designated, I believe for the first time, in the Episcopal Registers A. D. 1342, as *Ecclesia de Clyst St. Georgii*. Until that period it was called CLYSTWYCK.

‡ Fol. 7. Reg. Bronescombe.

discover ; but they certainly exercised it from the 17th of May, 1322, for more than two centuries, until the dissolution of their Monastery. By a crown grant it then passed to the Prideaux family.

The Church is small, measuring in its extreme length, from the chancel wall to the belfry inclusively, 65 feet, and 28 in breadth. The screen has been removed within the memory of some of the parishioners. To every observer it must be manifest, that the chancel has a claim to greater antiquity than the rest of the fabric. In its east window is a spirited representation of the Crucifixion, with the accompanying figures of the Blessed Virgin and St. John the Evangelist ; also of the Blessed Virgin crowned, bearing in her left hand the Divine Infant, and in her right the rod of Aaron, (Numb. xvii. 8) ; or the rod out of the root of Jesse, &c. (Isaiah xi. 1.) also of the figure of St. George standing in full armour, the tutelar Saint of the parish ; below the Saint is the figure of a former Rector on his knees, with the legend—

OBA PRO IOHE A...R, RECTORE HVIVS HECCLESIE.

By reference to the episcopal registers, I find that the name of this Rector was Aller, instituted 22d Nov. 1390 ; he resigned 10th Aug. 1406.

The nave of the Church is connected with a north aisle by four arches ; the upper one is more ornamented, and being much lower and wider than the rest, it probably served as a canopy for an altar tomb. At the west end of the Church rises the tower to the height of 63 feet, and contains three bells.

In the Church we observed several grave stones, and some mural monuments, to the *Osbornes* and *Gibbes*, The

former family,* besides giving communion plate to the parish, presented an edition of Fox's Martyrology.† Mr. Geo. Gibbes, (a benefactor of lands to the parish, purchased for £310,) erected, in the year 1708, a monument to the memory of his ancestors. It commemorates the burial of his grandfather John Gibbes, on 15th July, 1652, æt. 82; and of his wife Anstice; also of his father Geo. Gibbes, buried 18th July, 1685, æt. 81. From a brass plate, once let into a grave-stone in the nave, I copied the following lines:—

“ The body of John Gibbe intombed here doth reste,
 “ Who dyinge did his soul to Heaven above bequest,
 “ His faith in Jesus Christ most steadfastly was sett,
 “ Insured hope thereby to satisfye his deute.
 “ A lyvely theame to take ensample by,
 “ Contemninge death, in hope a Saint to dy.
 “ Obiit xxij^o die Decembris Anno 1594.”

Mr. Polwhele, p. 206, Hist. Devon, asserts that the registers have been regularly kept in this parish from the reign of Q. Mary. The fact is, they do not commence

*Under a brass figure is the following inscription, to the memory of Julian Osborne, who deceased the 18th of August, Anno 1614.

Bonifant a virgin, Osborne a loyall wife,
 For thirty yeares, a Widow was fourty and more,
 A hundred yeares almoste she lead her life,
 Kinde to the Riche and good to all the Poore.
 Here lyes her Dust whose soule's to Heaven gone,
 Since she did live and dye a saint lyke one.

†Fox died 18th April, 1587, æt. 70; his epitaph may be seen, in St. Giles' Church, near Cripple Gate, London. To me it has always appeared astonishing, that his Martyrology could have charms for the lover of genuine history. Well might Doctor Fiddes, p. 35, Life of Cardinal Wolsey, declare, that Mr. Fox sometimes makes Martyrs and Confessors of Men, who not only maintained erroneous doctrines, but who gave just scandal by expressing an irregular and indiscreet zeal of them. That he was no friend of the Church of England is evident from p. 195, lib. 2, of Anthony a Wode's Hist. and Antiq. Univ. Oxon.

before the ninth year of Queen Elizabeth. By the kindness of the present Rector, the Rev. WILLIAM Rous ELLICOMBE, we are enabled to collect from them the following series of his predecessors, viz :—

William Gybbe, buried 30th May, A. D. 1571.

Robert Buckland, after serving the Church above 50 years, buried 9th Oct. 1625.

Gideon Edmunds, buried 27th August, 1638.

Robert Parr, ditto, 21st July, 1664.

William Clare, 5th September, 1694.

John Hamett, æt. 39, buried 19th January, 1695-6.

Theoph. Eedes, æt. 37, buried with his son, 20th Sept. 1705.

Francis Pease, buried 20th August, 1738.

James Walker, who resigned shortly after his institution.

Nicholas Roe, rector for 53 years, buried 12th May, 1792.

Richard Rous, uncle to the present rector, buried 2d Oct. 1810, æt. 57.

The Pomeroy family were Lords of the Manor of Clyst-wyck. As such, Geffry de Pomeroy confirmed the grant made by Hilary Blund, of Exeter, (about the year 1230), to Thomas the son of Durandus of Heathfield Tenement, in this manor, under the yearly rent for ever of 4s. For ratifying this covenant, Geffry received from Thomas 5s. who had already paid the fine to Hilary Blund, of 2 marks of silver. Amongst the witnesses to Geffry's ratification are Sir Wm. de Wideworth, Knight, Geffry de Teng, Parson of Farringdon, David, Parson of Clistwick or Clistmue, and Jordan Suchespick.

CURIOSUS.

No. XXVI.

ST. LEONARD'S.*

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXETER AND PLYMOUTH
GAZETTE.

THE first mention that I find of this Church is in the reign of King John, when it is enumerated amongst the 28 Chapels in Exeter, and its immediate neighbourhood, which partook of the donation of one penny per annum by the last will and testament of Peter de Palerna. It occurs again in the taxation of Pope Nicholas IV. which was completed A. D. 1291.

It appears from Bishop Grandisson's Register that in 1348 the right of presentation was contested by Hugh Courtenay, Earl of Devon, and William de Goetore. The former presented to the living Walter Power, the latter Peter Poyer. The right of the latter claimant was rejected in the Bishop's Court, and Walter Power was duly confirmed Rector. In several instances the Courtenay family is recorded to have exercised the right of presentation ; but in the reign of Henry VI. it devolved to the

* From an accomplished courtier he became a hermit near Limoges, and died about the year 559.

Crown. In the beginning of the 16th century, however, when John Arundel was Bishop of the diocese, we observe its exercise restored to the family. In the Register of Bishop Lacy, 18th October, 1424, and the 3d year of Henry VI. a singular circumstance is recorded. It appears that a law-suit had been conducted for a considerable time between the Dean and Chapter of Exeter, as proprietors of the tithes of Heavitree, and Robert Taylor, the Rector of St. Leonard, respecting the right of tithes to certain inclosures commonly called *Spyceparke*, *Lowyesparke*, and *Prioury Mede*. After much expence had been incurred by both parties, it was agreed to settle the business in an amicable manner, by arbitrators. The Dean and Chapter chose Henry Webber, Doctor of Canon Law, and the Rector appointed Roger Toker, a Doctor of Civil Law. These finally decided that the tithes of the two acres of the inclosure called *Spyceparke*, the nearest to the high road that leads to Topsham, belonged to the Dean and Chapter, and the remainder to the Rector; that four acres of the inclosure called *Lowyes Parke*, in the bottom of the inclosure near the river Exe, should pay tithes to the Dean and Chapter, while the tithes of the two acres in the upper part should be equally divided between the two parties; and that the tithes of the *Prioury Mede* were the sole and exclusive property of the Dean and Chapter.

The present Church, consisting of a chancel and nave, is very small. Previous to the year 1732, the timber-work of the roof was open to view; since that time the whole fabric has been modernized, with little pretension to taste and love of venerable antiquity. In page 212, vol. 2, of Bishop Stafford's Register, mention is made of a

house in the church-yard of St. Leonard's, which served as a habitation for a recluse or anchorite. It appears that one Alice, a woman of good conduct and honest conversation, *mulierem bona vita et conversationis honesta*, had applied for permission to lead a contemplative and solitary life in the above-mentioned house. Bishop Stafford granted the necessary permission on the 18th of May, A. D. 1397. In p. 291, vol. 3, of Bishop Lacy's Register, it is stated that the celebrated Augustine Priory of Kildare in Ireland, had lately been destroyed and ruined by the wild Irish, *per infortunium guerre Hibernorum silvestrium qui predictum Prioratum et locum de Kildare, destruxerunt et devastarunt*—that the religious were dispersed in different places, and that one of the Canonesses, called Christina Holby, had applied to him for permission to lead the life of a recluse in a house situated in St. Leonard's church-yard; *in mansione situata in cemeterio Ecclesie Sancti Leonardi extra portam Australem Civitatis Exonie*. Bishop Lacy commissions Walter Collys (then Precentor of the Cathedral Church of Exeter) to examine the said Christina Holby, and to report if she be a fit person to undertake this austere and singular way of living. The commission is dated Sept. 8th, A. D. 1447.* The lady was allowed to follow her inclinations. Several charitable bequests to these per-

* The author of the work intitled *Dives and Pauper* (finished at Westminster Abbey, iii. December 1496) in chap. 13 on the sixth commandment, has this observation:—"We see that whan *men* take them to be Ankeres and Recluses within a fewe yeres, comonly ethyer they fall in reverses or heresyes, or they breke out for woman's love, or for trouble of ther lyfe, or by some gyle of ye Fende. But of *Wymen Ancre* so inclosed in seldowm herde ony of these defaults; but holyly they begynne and hollyly they ende."

sons may be seen in the wills still preserved in the said Registers. At present there is little to arrest attention in this cemetery. The tomb of the celebrated Dr. Musgrave will be described in the "Biography of Eminent Men of Exeter," now preparing for the press. This learned Physician resided in St. Lawrence's parish; but a memorandum in the parochial register informs us, that "*he chose a grave in the church-yard of St. Leonard's, because he was of opinion that the burial of the dead in cities was unwholesome for the living—an example worthy of imitation.*" There is some merit, we think, in the following epitaph of Celia Eliza Neyle, a child of 13 years of age, who died 15th Sept. 1813:—

Ere sin could blight, or sorrow fade,
Death came with friendly care,
The opening bud to heaven convey'd.
And bade it blossom there."

We cannot leave this sacred spot without remembering one, whose memory Exeter will ever cherish—the late JOHN BARING, Esq. A plain altar-tomb on the north side records the names of some of his family, with the years of their deaths, and respective ages. Of himself the inscription witnesses, with brief simplicity, that he "died in the year 1816, aet. 85." His name is identified with commercial greatness; at his retirement, the prosperous trade of this city shrunk back and dwindled away. Of the English merchant, he was the fairest portrait by his diligence, judgment, sterling honor, and independent spirit. In his days Mount Radford* was the abode of

* Laurence Radford, Esq. I believe in the early part of Queen Elizabeth's reign, erected a dwelling here, which Arthur, his son, sold to Edward Hancock, Esq. The latter settled it as a

taste and hospitality: there modest merit was sure of meeting with encouragement—and poverty found comfort and relief.

“Clarum et venerabile nomen
Gentibus, et multum nostræ quod proderat urbi.”

The registers of the parish, as I have ascertained through the kindness of its most respectable Rector, Rev. GAYER PATCH, are not in existence previous to the year 1710. The Advowson of St. Leonard's was purchased by the late Mr. Baring's father on 19th July, 1737, of John Lavington, clerk, and Samuel Lewis, merchant, surviving assignees under a commission of bankruptcy awarded against Andrew Lavington, and Richard Paule, merchants, for **ninety** pounds !!! The Church was erroneously reputed to be exempt from Archidiaconal visitation, and the inspection of the Rural Dean; until lately it was without wardens and church-rates. In 1742 an estate of about 25 acres, called *Carwithams*, within Crediton parish, was purchased for £415, and annexed to the Rectory.

In this small parish (for it contains but 150 acres) is an ancient dwelling called *Lerkebeare*, or *Larkebear*,

jointure on his wife Dorothy, daughter of Sir Amias Bamfyld, Knt. By the subsequent marriage of this lady to Sir John Doddrige, Knt. it became the residence of that learned Judge until her death in 1614. Returning to the Hancocks, the property passed from them to the Ducks; thence to Wm. Hansford, merchant, then to John Colsworthy, merchant, from whose son, John Ollivant Colsworthy, of St. James's, county of Middlesex, Gent. it was purchased by the late Mr. Baring, in 17.. for £2100. It consisted then of 17 acres only; but he continued to extend and improve the property, until it ranked amongst the most convenient and enviable residences in the West of England.—Does not the crumbling away of this once beautiful and compact estate, remind the reader of the words of the Sythian Ambassador to Alexander the Great—“*Ignoras, arbores magnas dum crescere, una hora extirpari.*”

strangely thought to have been a monastic or religious establishment. The *Hull* family possessed it for many descents; we meet with them there in the beginning of Edward the Fourth's reign (see p. 203, *Cat. Rotulorum Chartarum.*) John Hull, of Larkbear, Esq. died in the middle of the 16th century. From the Hulls it passed to the Smiths, Eastchurches, and Lavingtons, and thence into the Baring family.

CURIOSUS.

No. XXVII.

HACCOMBE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXETER AND PLYMOUTH GAZETTE.

HACCOMBE Church, dedicated to St. Blasē, is of small dimensions, being but 55 feet long by 30 broad, and consists of a chancel and a nave opening into a north wing by four unadorned arches of the earliest pointed style. On 19th July, 1328, Bishop Grandisson dedicated the Church, with its two altars and cemetery, probably on account of certain alterations and improvements; the outer walls and lancet windows evidently belong to a preceding century, and the Bishop, in the foundation deed of its Arch-presbytery, expressly affirms, that this parish church had served for the burial

place of Sir Stephen de Haccomb, and of his *progenitors* ; “*in qua corpora ejus et suorum progenitorum traduntur ecclesiastice sepulture.*” An elegant simplicity is the character of the fabric. We were highly gratified with the effigies of a crusader, in the south wall of the chancel : his armour is of the most costly and graceful description. This, we suspect, was not the original situation of the monument, the *sedilia* having manifestly been cut away to receive it. Perhaps it once reposed in a niche of the north aisle. The shield bears the arms of HACCOMBE, Argent 3 Bends, Sable. Under the first arch of the chancel are two figures, recumbent on an altar tomb, perhaps of Hugh Courtenay, and Phillipa, his second wife, grand-daughter of Sir John L’ Archdeacon. Under the first window of the north aisle is a recumbent figure of a female, bearing the arms of Haccombe. May it be intended for Margaret, the lady of Sir Stephen de Haccombe ? Under the second window is a raised tomb, inscribed with a long cross, which it is not unlikely covers the remains of Rev. Robert de Pyl, whose name occurs as a benefactor in the above-mentioned foundation deed. Under the third and fourth window the niches are vacant ; perhaps one may have contained the graceful female figure now in the second arch of the nave. This may represent Cecily, the lady of Sir John L’ Archdeacon. Rich as the Church is in monuments, there may have been more at the time of the Reformation. Leland, in his Itinerary, mentions “ diverse fair tumbes of the Archidikens at Hacham ; diverse of the Carews be also buried in the same chirch.” Our readers are aware that towards the latter end of Henry the VIII.’s reign, throughout the whole reign of Edward

VI. and in the beginning of Elizabeth's, the spirit of havoc and destruction was principally directed against funeral monuments, and that it required the most vigorous interference of the Crown to restrain and suppress this barbarous and detestable spoliation.*

In fol. 14 of 2d vol. Regist. Grandisson, is copied the foundation deed of this Arch-presbytery, written about the year 1341. It sets forth that Sir Stephen Haccombe had proposed to have made the endowment, but was prevented by death; that Sir John Lercedekne, Knt. the heir to his property, *hæres in temporalibus*, had fully entered into his views and wishes, and with the concurrence and approbation of Bishop Grandisson had erected an establishment here for six priests, the superior of whom was to be denominated the Arch-priest, and endowed it with the tithes of Haccombe, as also of St. Hugh's de Quedyock, in Cornwall, the patronage of which Sir Stephen had acquired previously to his death. These six Clergymen were indeed Chantry Priests; they were daily

*Honest John Weever, in p. 51, *Ancient Funeral Monuments, &c.* admits this:—"But the foulest and most inhuman action of those times, was the violation of funeral monuments. Marbles which covered the dead were digged up and put to other uses. Tombs hacked and hewn a-pieces—images, or representations of the defunct broken, erased, cut, or dismembered—inscriptions or epitaphs, especially if they began with an *Orate pro anima*, or concluded with *Cujus animæ propitietur Deus*, for greediness of the brass, or for that they were thought to be anti-christian, were pulled out from the sepulchres and purloined. Dead carcases, for gain of their stone or leaden coffins, were cast out of their graves, notwithstanding this request cut or engraved upon them, "*propter misericordiam Jesu requiescant in pace.*" He adds, that the Royal Commissioners and tomb-breakers searched the sepulchres for treasures, and dispersed the bones and ashes, and that Queen Elizabeth, on 19th Sept. 1560, published a proclamation against defacing monuments, and found it necessary to repeat it in the 14th year of her reign.

to sing the canonical hours in choir, as also two masses; the first of the office of the day, the second in honor of the Blessed Virgin. A third mass was to be said, but not sung, except at dirges and anniversaries. At these services they were to pray for the said Bishop, for Hugh Courtenay, Earl of Devon, for Sir John Leredekne, and his wife Cecily,* and for their children, for Margaret the relict of Sir Stephen de Haccombe, and for Robert de Pyl, clerk, all of whom were then living, and to continue the proper suffrages for them after their death. One of the Priests was daily to celebrate for the repose of the soul of the founder, Sir Stephen de Haccombe, Knt. for Sir Thomas Leredekne's and his wife Matilda's, the parents of Sir John Laredekne aforesaid, for Jordan's de Haccombe, and his wife Isabella's, and for all the faithful departed.

In p. 238 of Cleaveland's Genealogical History of the Courtenays, is a confused account of that family, and very contradictory to the table accompanying that page.

Haccombe must formerly have been more populous than at present, for the Priests were to assist their superior in the cure of souls. Bishop Grandisson required that the Archpriest and his associates should lodge and board under the same roof,† that their dress should resemble that of the Vicars of the Cathedral Church of Exeter, that the salary of each should be 2 marks per annum, that two clerks, sufficiently skilled in reading and singing, were to assist them in the Church and serve them at home, who

* I think Cecily was the daughter of Sir Stephen de Haccombe and not of Jordan de Haccombe, as Sir W. Pole asserts p. 270, Hist. Coll.

†This, we presume, was the ancient Parsonage House.

were also provided with board and lodging, and had a stipend of 10s. The Arch-priest could claim no peculiar exemption from the jurisdiction of his Ordinary, nor of the Archdeacon; he was precisely on the same footing as the Superiors of the Arch-presbyteries at Penkewell, Beerferrers, and Whitechurch, which had been instituted in the diocese in the early part of the 14th century.

In Prince's Worthies of Devon, (under Thomas Carewe, Esq.) are several epitaphs and inscriptions taken from this Church. Their errors are faithfully copied by Mr. Polwhale.

Sir HENRY CAREW, Bart. the present proprietor of Haccombe, is intitled to great commendation for what he has done to restore, and embellish this interesting structure. May we be allowed to recommend the re-opening of the west window of the north aisle—the erection of benches after the ancient form—the removal of the cabinet picture on the altar for one of stained glass, to fill the east window of the chancel, as also the renewal of the broken cross on the eastern gable.

CURIOSUS.

No. XXVIII.

AXMINSTER.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXETER AND PLYMOUTH
GAZETTE.

KING Athelstan gave Axminster Church as a perpetual endowment for seven Priests, to celebrate the obits of the seven Earls who fell by his side, whilst engaging the Danish invaders. The Register of Newenham Abbey* informs us that the battle began "*apud Kales-tynesdoune*," or, "*almunt Seynt Kalyat en Devansyr*," and continued to be fought as far as Colecroft,† under Axminster, where these seven warriors were slain. Owing to the distracted state of the times, the royal foundation was gradually neglected: as the Chantry Priests died off, their places ceased to be supplied, insomuch that the performance of the Church offices had devolved before the Conquest on a single incumbent. It appears, however, that *soon after* the Conquest, the foundation was restored to its primitive form; for the register aforesaid explicitly declares, that one of the seven Priests, who were then at

* Compare the French account, fol. 67, with the Latin narrative, fol. 113. The field of battle is called by Leland *Branesdown*; by other writers it is named Bremeldoun, Brunaburgh, and Kingsfield. N. B. This Register, written in Edward the Third's reign, and consisting of 122 double pages, is the property of William Wavell, of Barnstaple, Esq. M. D. a gentleman as able to give, as he is ready to afford, literary and historic information.

† Q. now *Colemede*, near *Bow-Bridge*, over the Axe.

Axminster, "*un de set prestres ke dunk furet a Axemynstr,*" was Queen Maud's Confessor, and that on his promotion to a canonry at York, he stipulated with his successor at Axminster to be allowed the sum of 8 marks per. annum. By degrees death reduced the number of these Collegiate Priests from seven to two, when the above-mentioned Canon applied to the survivors for an increase of salary. The application was admitted ; an annuity of ten marks was granted, which was subsequently increased to 24 marks. This payment continued to be claimed and received by the Church of York, until it was successfully resisted by Matthew, (nephew of Simon de Apulia, the Bishop of Exeter, in the early part of the thirteenth century) who had been appointed to the Living of Axminster. On what principle the Church of York asserted a claim to such pension, I cannot discover; but the simultaneous pretension which it advanced to the Advowson of Axminster appears to set conjecture at defiance. That right was vested in the Crown; with the grant of the Manor and Hundred of Axminster, on 6th August, 1215, it passed from King John to the Lord William Bruer. This nobleman, as exclusive proprietor and patron of its Church, bestowed the Living on his chaplain and steward, Gervase de Prustaller, who for a lengthened period enjoyed the same. The advowson descended to *Reginald de Mohun*, in right of his wife Alice, daughter and co-heiress of William Lord Bruer, and he conveyed it to the Abbot and Convent of Newenham. When John Gervays received from the Church of York an appointment to the

* N. B. This pension of 24 marks was still paid, as I find in Bp. Bronscomb's Register by the Vicar in Oct. 1259, as also by Bp. Stapledon's Register, in Nov. 1320.

vacant Benefice, Walter Bronescombe, Bishop of Exeter, interposed, and formally rejected the pretension as unwarrantable. It is true, indeed, that he proceeded to collate Walter de Awliscombe to the Living, and on Walter's demise shortly after, he preferred Nicholas de Honiton* to the same ; but in the former instance, the collation had lapsed to him by the Abbot's neglecting to present an incumbent, within the six months prescribed by the canons ; and in the latter case, the Bishop's appointment arose from the misconception of a papal provision touching the patronage of Churches by religious persons. On the Abbot's appeal to the Metropolitan, our Bishop was declared to have fallen into an error of judgment ; and in-consequence *Nicholas de Honiton* was superseded by *John de Bridport*, on the presentation of the Abbot and Convent of Newenham.

Scarcely was this point determined, when, as the Register informs us, another competitor for the Advowson started up in the Sovereign. The question was tried in the spring of 1277, before Ralph de Hyngham and his companions, justices of our Lord the King. The jury was highly respectable, consisting of 24 Knights, 8 of the county of Devon, 8 of Somersetshire, and 8 of Dorsetshire. Their verdict was in favour of the Crown ; and yet King Edward I. hastened immediately after, viz. 29th April, 1277, to restore it to the Abbey, and even condescended to apply, on 17th Nov. 1291, to Pope Nicholas IV. to ap-

* This appointment caused much contention between the Rector and Abbot, as we learn from fol. 33 of the Bishop's Register. The Bishop endeavoured to effect a reconciliation between the parties ; but the sequel proves that the Abbot was borne out in declining to compromise the rights of his monastery.

propriate the same to their use and profit. Notwithstanding this, for some inexplicable cause, the Abbot, *Richard Chichester*, presumed to cancel the royal grant. The King took advantage of this circumstance to transfer the rents and emoluments to the better foundation of the Prebends of *Worthill* and *Grendall*, in the Church of York, and thus the rectorial tithes, with the Manor of *Priestaller*, extending over about 513 acres in Axminster and its neighbourhood, were severed and alienated from the Abbey. However Chichester may have congratulated himself on the success of his intrigue, his conduct failed not to excite the disgust and rouse the indignation of his brethren, who deposed him from his dignity, as a betrayer of his trust. To recover from the Church of York their former possession, was long the anxious wish of his successors; yet to contend against the overwhelming influence of the Crown, was obviously a desperate enterprise; and at last they were reluctantly compelled to abandon so unequal and fruitless a contest.

We may now direct our attention to the present Parish Church.

CURIOSUS.

No. XXIX.

AXMINSTER CHURCH.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXETER AND PLYMOUTH GAZETTE.

IT is dedicated to the Blessed Virgin, and consists of a chancel and nave, with a north and south aisle. The massive tower, 60 feet high, and containing

six bells, rises nearly in the centre of the fabric. By measurement I found the inner length of the Church to be 114 feet, by 49 wide. The beautiful Saxon door-way, which formerly was placed in the north wall, has been removed to the east end of the south aisle. We could not but admire the beautifully pointed piscina in the chancel ; but still were disappointed at witnessing such scanty remains of antiquity. The chancel, to the best of our judgment, is of the reign of Edward I. but probably no other part of the Church can have been erected before the time of Richard II. Under an elliptical arch on the north side of the Church is a sepulchral effigy of a Priest ; in the wall of the north aisle is another recumbent figure, but concealed from view by pew-work ; and a grave-stone presents a part of an inscription, *Magister Jokes Waty olim hug^o. Eccle Vicar.* The Episcopal Registers shew, that he was admitted to this Vicarage, vacant by the death of *John Hembury*, 6th March, 1491, on the presentation of Alexander Legh and John Jurdan, Canons of the Cathedral Church of York, and Prebendaries of the Prebends of Grendall and Warthill, as true patrons of the Prebendal Church of Axminster. These authentic records further prove that *Waty* held at the same time, the Rectory of St. Kerrian's, Exeter, and that he died in the spring of 1519, when *Thomas Stanesby*, or *Scaseby*, succeeded him in the Vicarage of Axminster, the 26th of April that year.

On the south side of the Church, before the aisle was extended to its present length, in the year 1800, was a chantry, commonly called *Drake's* aisle. I have seen the deed by which Richard Gill, the last Abbot of Newenham, appointed “*John Drake de Musbury, gent.*” to be

steward of the Convent property in Newenham and Axminster, with a salary of 26s. 8d. per annum. Stewardships, just before the dissolution of religious houses, paved the way to great fortunes.

The parapet of the north side of the Church is ornamented with open quatrefoils. We observed the Stafford knot repeated, as also the arms of Mohun and Courtenay. Over the porch, St. John the Baptist is introduced bearing the lamb and flag, St. Peter with the keys, and St. Paul with the sword.

Defendant on Axminster, are the Curacies of Membury and Kilmington.

MEMBURY CHURCH,

Dedicated to St. John the Baptist, is pleasantly situated in a valley, and was consecrated, with its cemetery, by Bishop Stapeldon, on 22d July, 1316. The Bishop expressly ordained, that all the tithes, great and small, and all the offerings, were to belong, as before, to the Church of Axminster. The outside of the fabric led us to expect a more dignified appearance within. The south aisle which formerly belonged to the *Fry* family, and is called "*our Lady Isle*," has several decent monuments; but owing to the damp are rapidly going to decay: some of the inscriptions are actually peeling off. Five arches connect this aisle with the nave. At the east end of the church are three lancet windows. On its north wall I observed a mural tablet to Sir Shilston Calmady, knt. who died 13th Feb. 1645; the inscription is almost illegible.

St. Catharine's, or the north aisle, is but 16 feet long by 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ wide. Under a plain arch I perceived the ancient

effigy of a female, six feet in length, her head resting on a cushion, and her hands joined before her breast.

The total length of the Church is 75 feet, breadth 30. The height of the tower, containing five bells, is about 64 feet.

This Church was ordered to be re-seated on 15th May, 1588. In virtue of an order of both Houses of Parliament of 2d May, 1645, the committee for plundered ministers enjoined, on 8th January following, that "£40 per annum be paid out of Yarcombe Rectory, sequestered from Sir Robert Brett, a papist and delinquent, towards the maintenance of a minister to officiate in Membury Chapel, annexed to Axminster parish church."

KILMINGTON CHURCH,

Dedicated to St. Giles, has but little to recommend it. Its length is 54 feet by 31. The nave opens into a north aisle, by four arches ; the one nearest the chancel is more ornamented, and seems to have served as a canopy for an ancient monument. Unless I mistake, this northern aisle was the chapel of St. Christina, which Thomas Vivyan, Bishop of Megara, and Prior of Bodmin, blest on 18th January, 1509. The low tower contains five bells. In quitting the church we could wish the capitals of the pillars to be cleared of the whitewash. Were this but once accomplished, the consideration of expence might afterwards weigh with future Churchwardens in preventing the sculpture from being clotted again.

Sir Thomas Dennis, who had contrived to obtain the stewardship of most of the Monasteries of Devon, with a reversion to his son Robert, received his appointment to the office of steward of the manor, hundred, and town

of Axminster, with an annuity of 40s. on 28th of Feb. 1531. Six years later, viz. 26th October, 1537, he obtained from the Abbot and Convent of Newenham, the absolute grant of all their estates and rights in Kilmington; also the reversion of Brodēhouse, containing 6 acres of land; and of two other closes, one lying near Yerterbridge, containing 3 parts of an acre; the other containing 3 acres, lying in Castlemede and Gorēham; also the reversion of an acre of meadow on the east of Roughmede, and of another acre and a half in Brodmede, which lands were then in the tenure of John Stephyns, for the term of his life. Sir T. Dennis was to pay 1d. to the Abbot and Convent at Michaelmas, "*si debito modo petatur, pro omnibus serviciis, exactionibus et demandis.*"

CURIOSUS.

No. XXX.

B A M P T O N.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXETER AND PLYMOUTH GAZETTE.

BAMPTON Church stands on a gentle ascent from the town, and presents a pleasing appearance. The interior measures 97* feet in length, and including the tower nearly 20 more; the width of the nave and north aisle is 38 feet, but of the chancel scarcely 18 feet. On

*Mr. Polwhele, p. 379, *Devon*, allows but sixty-seven feet.
N.B. We cannot find in *Risdon* the inscription quoted by Mr. P.

entering the chancel from the spacious church-yard, I was surprised to find, against the north and south walls various fragments and portions of bold and graceful sculpture, with tabernacle work, tracery, shields, the I. H. S. and the Bourchier knot and water bouget. How such elaborate work came to be placed there, not a little perplexed me ; but the Rev. BARTHOLOMEW DAVEY,* the present Vicar, to whose attentions I hold myself particularly indebted, resolved my perplexity, by informing me that it belonged to two monuments of considerable antiquity, which stood in the chancel, and that on their removal, about 30 years ago, the sides were placed to line the walls above mentioned. May they not have covered the remains of some of the *Bourchiers*, who for a time were Lords of Bampton and Patrons of the Church ?† One of the skeletons was described to me as being of gigantic proportions.

Until lately, the screen extended across the north aisle, beyond the first of the five arches. In the centre of its canopied compartments are emblematic figures of the passion of Christ. Generally speaking, the sculpture of the Church, in the capitals of the pillars, and nodi of the roof, is distinguished by good taste. To the Vicar every

* His Predecessor died 5th Oct. 1784, æt. 87, and served the church 53 years.

† We say for a time Patrons of the church, for the Prior and Convent of Bath occasionally presented : and in the reign of Henry VI. the Abbot and Convent of Buckland, as we learn from Bishop Lacy's register, established a legal right to the Advowson in opposition to the Bourchiers. The merits of the case it would now be difficult to discover ; but it is certain, that the Abbot and Convent of Buckland continued to exercise their right, until the dissolution of monasteries.

N.B. Westcot says that "some of the Lords of Bampton were interred here." Fol. 63.

praise is due for the neatness of the fabric, of all ornaments the best, and generally the least expensive.

At the eastern end of the north aisle, was probably the Chantry of St. Luke. The fair at Bampton, *apud capellam S. Luce*, was granted by K. Henry III. A. D. 1258, whilst Osmund was Rector. It appears that the impropriators of the Rectory were bound to repair this chapel. For I find that John Toker, the last Abbot of Buckland, leased to Robert Tucker, and his sons William and Hugh, for a term of 60 years, under the yearly rent of £14 12s. 7d. the Church and Rectory of Bampton, "una cum manso, domo, clausuris, terris et tenementis, nec non fructibus, decisis et oblationibus." The lessees were to cover all charges, and moreover, "*supportabant reparacionem Cancelle Ecclesie Parochialis et CAPELLAM SANCTI LUCE IBIDEM.*" In its east window is a considerable collection of stained glass: it is easy to trace amongst the fragments the subject of Christ's resurrection, the figures of the Blessed Virgin, St. Anthony, St. Lawrence, St. Catharine, and especially of St. *Michael*, to whom the Church is dedicated. The arms of Fissacre and Arches are distinctly visible.

Within the church-yard was another Chantry, called *Fforde*, dedicated I think, to the blessed Virgin Mary. It is frequently to be met with in the Episcopal Registers. Mr. Lyssons, p. 29, vol. 2, Devonshire, is of opinion that there was a chantry at *Shillingford*, in this parish; but is not this not a mistake for Fforde? In Bishop Lacy's Register I meet with a presentation, on 23d Aug. 1437, "*ad liberam capellam de Fforde infra Cemeterium Ecclesie Parochialis de Bampton.*"

The tower of the Church is nearly 70 feet high, and contains 6 bells, cast by Bilbie, of Cullompton.

The Parochial Registers prior to Michaelmas, 1653, have unfortunately perished.

In this parish, I believe, the battle was fought A. D. 614, between Cynegils and his brother Cuichelm, against the Britons. In this engagement the loss of the latter amounted to 2046.

At Bampton, says Leland, (p. 94, vol. 3. Itinerary) "the Erle of Bath hath a goodly maner place." Here was a perpetual chantry, "*perpetua Cantaria Castri sive Manerii de Bampton.*" From Bishop Brantingham's Register we collect that the Cogan family presented to it on 20th August, 1381.

CURIOSUS.

No. XXXI.

WITHERIDGE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXETER AND PLYMOUTH GAZETTE.

WE learn from Bishop Quivill's Register, that the custody of Witheridge Church was committed to Thomas de Gorges, on the 4th Nov. 1282. This young man had been presented to the Living by its patron, Robert Fitz-Pagan, and the Prelate empowered him to receive ordinations from any of the Ordinaries. In consequence of Pope Martin Vth's recommendation 2 Ides, May 10th Pont, Bp. Lacy, 5 July, 1427, agreed to appropriate the Church of Wytheridge on the demise of Philip, the

then Rector, to Cannington Priory, whose possessions in Somersetshire had suffered greatly, "*proprie ipsius maris flumus et refluxus et alias diversos causas*," but the Convent was charged to remit 30s. yearly at Easter, to the Dean and Chapter of Exeter for the advantage of the Cathedral Choristers, and at the same time to distribute 6s. 8d. amongst the poorest parishioners. For neglecting to comply with such condition, in 1445, Bishop Lacy decreed the sequestration of the Rectory. The money was soon paid, and until the suppression of Cannington House, in the autumn of 1536, its Prioress invariably exercised the right of presentation.

The present Church, dedicated to St. John the Baptist, is a very respectable structure. Exclusive of the tower* (which is 61 feet high, and surmounted by an octagon pyramid covered with shingles) the length inside is 81 $\frac{1}{2}$ feet; the breadth of the nave with north and south aisles, is 36 $\frac{1}{2}$. It must be obvious to every beholder that the narrow chancel is the most ancient part of the fabric; it wants an east window; but this, we are told, is shortly to be provided by the liberality of the Rev. Wm. PROCTER THOMAS, who holds the Rectorial Manor and Advowson of the Vicarage with the Manor of Bradford Tracey.

The screen was unfortunately removed about 80 years ago. Tradition says that the singularly beautiful pulpit was brought hither from Exeter Cathedral during the usurpation of Cromwell. We observed on its sides the sculptured crucifixion of our Lord, with the usual accompanying

* Six bells hang in the tower, and are much admired for their musical tone.

figures of the blessed Virgin and St. John the Evangelist; as also the statues of St. Peter and St. Paul, and of a Bishop and some female saint. The font and the capital of the pillars supporting the four circular arches of the nave, are justly admired for the boldness of the sculpture; and indeed the whole of the building has an air of cleanliness too uncommon in country places of worship. It is pleasing to witness the zealous interest which the Vicar, Rev. PEERY DICKEN, takes in his church. The Registers begin with 1585, and have suffered no interruption.

In the Chancel of Witheridge was a Tomb in Westcote's time, to Thomas Melhuish, Esq. Patron of Witheridge Church: ob. 5th Feb. 1605.

On a Marble Stone, to John Gaydon, Vicar, who died 3d Nov. 1620: his wife Elizabeth died on the 21st Oct. 1613.

In the Church-yard, to Jane Thomas, of Way, ob. 6th Nov. 1627.

CURIOSUS.

TEMPLETON.

Bishop Grandisson, in his answer of 26th August, 1335, to King Edward the Third's writ of enquiry, expressly states, that the Chapel here once belonged to the Knights Templars, and was valued at 10s. per annum, "*capella de Temple, que quondam fuit Templariorum valoris Xs.*" About a century later, as I learn from Bishop Lacy's Register, the Manor paid 26s. 8d. to the Priory called "St. John's of Jerusalem," in London.

The present Church, erected in 1439, is a mean structure, and has nothing to recommend it. Its extreme

length is 58 feet, in width 16 feet; a tower at the west end, containing 3 bells, rises to 36 feet in height. The octagon font is rude and unadorned; the gallery, such as it is, was erected in 1676.

In folio 193, vol. 3. of Bishop Lacy's Register, is an interesting document bearing date 23d June, 1439, and setting forth, that a few parishioners of Witheridge had prevailed on a pretended and foreign Bishop "*quendam pretensem et extraneum Episcopum*," to consecrate St. Margaret's Chapel, with an adjoining cemetery at Templeton. As this was a notorious violation of ordinary jurisdiction, and a manifest prejudice to the rights of the mother church of Witheridge, Lacy summoned the guilty parishioners to appear at Bishop's Tawton on the next Monday after Midsummer day, and at the same time laid the Chapel and cemetery under an interdict. From the testimony and affidavits of the parishioners of Witheridge, and of the neighbouring clergy and gentry, it was clearly ascertained, that a Chapel at Templeton, dedicated to St. Margaret, had been used for divine service beyond the memory of the oldest person, but that all baptisms, burials, banns, and purifications, had been performed in the mother church of Witheridge, until very lately, when an Irish Priest, "*capellanus Hibernicus*," had presumed to celebrate them at Templeton. It was further shewn that the above mentioned foreign Bishop had presumed to dedicate the new Chapel about the feast of St. Barnaby, 11th June, 1439.

By the kindness of the Rev. JOHN COMMINS, I find, that the Registers of Baptisms here commence with 25th April, 1578; of Burials with the 3d of August that year; and of Wedding with the 19th of the following

January. The Rev. Edward Littlejohn, who commenced keeping the Registers, has prefixed the entry of his own baptism, viz. 23d February, 1556. Amongst other entries I read "John Britton, Parson of Templeton, buried 5th July 1586; Thomas Hartnoll, inducted into this Church, 19th March, 1636; William Chaffey, inducted 17th January, 1663; Daniel Thorne, inducted 3d June, 1672, and buried 12th April, 1725."

A grave-stone, near the entrance of the chancel, is inscribed to Edmund Cudmore, who died 19th August, 1606, and to his wife Alice, who died 20th Feb. 1611.

A table near the pulpit records the burial of Zachary Cudmore, gent. who died 9th December, 1628, and left £20 to the parish, the interest to be paid "every monthly sabbath to the poor, in bread or money." On the opposite wall is another tablet, stating that Daniel Cudmore, gent. who was buried at Loxbear, in 1697, had bequeathed £10 to this parish, the interest of which was payable to the poor, "every Good Friday, by the parson and the owner of *Colsone House*, after Morning Prayer."

Templeton Manor was purchased of Sir John Williams de la Pole, of Shute, Bart. by Charles Joseph Chichester, Esq. 29th April, 1794.

CURIOSUS.

No. XXXII.

P A I N G T O N.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXETER AND PLYMOUTH
GAZETTE.

THE Church, dedicated to St. John the Baptist, and measuring 139 feet in length, by 43 feet in breadth, is a beautiful object from Torbay. As we entered the church-yard, the eye rested with delight on the Norman doorway of its stately tower. Passing into the Church we were struck with the plainness of the six arches on either side of the nave, and felt regret for the absence of its screen, and the want of an appropriate east window for the chancel. Five niches in the ancient stone pulpit have been meanly closed up with mortar; but the most painful spectacle is the *Kirkham* chantry, where barbarism has been suffered to riot with impunity. Its rich monumental screen, to which the engraver can hardly do justice, has met with every indignity from wanton mutilation. Corresponding with this chapel, was another chantry; two others crowned the north and south aisles: in a window of the former aisle, probably made in the reign of King Henry VI. I observed the shield of Bishop Lacy. He had granted, on the 28th June, 1438, an indulgence of 40 days to sincere penitents, who should contribute *ad sustentationem Eccle Parochialis*

de Paington, and it is not unlikely was himself a liberal benefactor. In the wall of the north aisle is a stone skeleton—a memento of mortality not unfrequently placed in our churches during the 15th and 16th centuries.

Bishop Quivil, on 8th July, 1282, generously appropriated the Church of Paington to the Precentorship of Exeter Cathedral.

The entrance of the Vicarage-house, below the Church, is of considerable antiquity. The present incumbent, Rev. THOMAS COMPTON, politely shewed us the parochial registers. They are in good preservation; that of Weddings commences with 18th Sept. 1559; of Baptisms with 12th Nov.; and of Burials with 21st Nov. that year,

Amogst the proceedings in the State Paper Office of the Committee for plundered Ministers in the time of the Commonwealth, we read the following order, 2d June, 1652:—

“ That fifty pounds be paid and allowed out of the overplus profits of the impropriate Rectories of *Mary-church* and *Paington*, sequestered from Sir Edward Cary, *Recusant*, for increase of maintenance of William Randal, Minister of Berry Pomeroy.”

The Manor of Paington belonged to the see of Exeter before the Conquest. The taxation of Pope Nicholas IV. completed in 1291, shews that, with the exception of Bishop's Tawton, it was reputed as the most valuable Manor attached to the Bishops. Adjoining the church-yard are still some mouldering ruins of their once favorite palace; here was also an extensive park. In fol. 71, of Bronescombe's Register, is the *amende honorable* of Sir Henry de la Pomeray, for trespassing in it. On 22d July, 1265, he acknowledged himself most guilty; he had

formerly incurred excommunication, he says, *pro varii et manifestis injuriis*, and conscious of his misconduct, had bound himself by oath never to repeat it. Nevertheless he had illegally scaled the fences of his Lordship's park with a numerous party from Berry Pomeroy, "fossata Porci de Peyton illicite transgrediens cum meis familiaribus et aliis multis de domo mea de Byry," and had dared to hunt down the Bishop's deer, and had actually taken and killed some. For such flagrant offence against his venerable father and *liege lord*, "dominum meum ligium," the Bishop of Exeter, he now personally appeared, promising amendment, and solemnly engaging to make compensation and restitution by the feasts of All Saints, (1st Nov.) as also to pay down the sum of one hundred marks, if ever convicted of a similar offence.

To this Manor I think *Compton Castle*, now in Markdon parish, was formerly attached. It is perfectly certain that William, son and heir of William Compton, did homage to Bishop Stapledon, on 1st April, 1311, and produced a deed of John, Bishop of Exeter, (between 1186 and 1191) reciting the deed of his predecessor, Robert de Cecister, giving and granting to Alaurie, the son of Cyriacus de Compton, and his heirs, 4 ferlings of land, and 4 acres of land, by holding (*habulum*) the yearly payment of eight shillings. Bishop John was pleased to confirm the grant, and to add to it 4 acres more, viz. of two acres on either side of his garden.

MARLDON.

The Church, dedicated to St. John the Baptist, and dependant on Paignton, is seated on the side of a hill, and

measures in its inside length including the tower, ninety feet, and in breadth forty two and a half. Tradition says that it was built by the Gilbert Family ; they certainly presented both to the Church and its perpetual chantry : it is evidently the work of the 15th century. It consists of a chancel, a nave connected with a south aisle by seven arches, with a north aisle by five arches, and of a tower which rises about 90 feet high. Every observer must remark the additions and alterations introduced into the fabric since its first foundation. The stone screen is for the most part preserved, but has been moved upwards in the chancel. Over the entrance door are the words "*Exaltata est sancta Dei genetrix super choros angelorum ad caelestia regna.*" Above the screen has been hoisted a frightful erection of wood work : several of the windows have been repaired in defiance of every rule of ancient propriety ; and whitewash has been suffered to clot and bury the bold and beautiful sculpture of the capitals.

The Register of Weddings begins 29th January, 1598 ; of Baptisms; 7th July, 1602 ; of Burials, 2d Feb. 1604.

CURIOSUS.

No. XXXIII.

CALWODELEGH, OR CALVERLEIGH.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXETER AND PLYMOUTH GAZETTE.

THIS parish, as we learn from Bishop Grandison's Register, was formerly included in Losbere. It contains about 600 acres, and was formerly the property of

the Calwodeleghs, who presented to the Church from Edward the Third's time until the reign of Hen VII. when Humphry de Calwodelegh forfeited his right and estate to the Crown. Perhaps he had espoused the cause of K. Richard III. In virtue of the Crown grant, Roger Holland presented, on 9th Aug. 1500 : seventeen years later the *Speccots* held the patronage. In 1554, Gertrude, Marchioness of Exeter, possessed this right ; but in the reign of Elizabeth it was exercised by the *Southcotes*. From them it passed to the *Fanes*. Charles Lord Viscount Fane, in the 22d of George II. obtained an Act of Parliament for selling the Manor of Calverleigh, the Rectory of Bampton, and some lands in Templeton ; and his Lordship's Trustees sold the same to Joseph Nagle, Esq. 2d July, 1768, for 10,000 guineas. By his will, dated 13th May, 1812, and proved in the Prerogative Court, 22d April 1813, the property descended to Charles Joseph Chichester, Esq. his nephew in law.

The Church, dedicated to St. Mary, is 57 feet long by 26 $\frac{1}{2}$ wide. It consists of a tower, 44 feet high, containing 3 bells, and of a nave and chancel, connected with a south aisle by three arches. This aisle served for the Calwodelegh Chantry, as we find in the Episcopal Registers. Thus Bishop Grandisson admitted John Soy, Priest, on 17th May, 1349, "*ad cantarium capelle parochialis de Calwodelegh ad presentationem Johis de Calwodelegh, veri patroni.*"

Here there is little to merit attention. Part of the ancient screen still remains. The chancel, as we learn by an inscription, was "seeled, plaistred, painted and paved, by Edward Serridge, Parson of Calverley, 1662." The painting of "the curse of the tree bearing no fruite;"

does little credit to the Rector's taste and judgment. On the screen we observed the arms of Bouchier and Cotton. In the chancel is the grave-stone of the Rev. John Prouz, late Rector of the parish, who died 31st July, 1646. On the communion table is inscribed

Sir Hewe Atwill,
Parson of Calverle.

This Rev. Divine and benevolent physician was buried, according to *Prinice*, at St. Ewes in Cornwall, 4th May, 1617, æt. 91.

From a very large gravestone in the nave,

Here lyeth the Body of John Crooke, Cloth- ier, sonne of Humphry Crooke He deceased the XXV. day of October 1616.

In the south aisle is a monument erected in 1638, to three generations of the *Southcotts*; and is particularly intitled to the attention of Heralds, especially if collated with the one in the north aisle of Kilmington church, erected in 1735, by George Southcott of Dulcis. Another tablet is inscribed to Ann Throckmorton, daughter of Geo. Throckmorton, of Weston Underwood, Bucks, Esq. by his wife Anna Maria Paston, of Horton, Co. Gloucester. The lady died 6th Nov. 1783. Adjoining is the monument of David Nagle, of Bally Griffin, Co. Cork, Esq. who died 4th June 1800, æt. 81; as also of Joseph Nagle, Esq. who died 29th January, 1813, æt. 89. whose

irtues are embalmed in the recollection of his friends—whose memory is identified with charity.

The parochial registers, prior to the 25th March, 1679, have unfortunately perished.

In fol. 197, of *Walker's Sufferings*, mention is made of Nicholas Burch, A. M. as Rector of Calverleigh. "He survived the usurpation, and died in 1677, having been succeeded by one Horsman, a New England divine, of whom it is reported, that talking in defence of extempore prayer, he said, " *Tho' we speak nonsense, God will pick out the meaning of it.*"

On 14th June, 1784, for the sum of 10 guineas, Wm. Morchard, Esq. granted and sold the annual rent or tenth of 7s. ; i. e. for the Manor of Calwodeleigh, and the advowson of the Vicarage, there 6s. 6d. ; and for the Manor of Rackenford 6d.

CURIOSUS.

No. XXXIV.

OTTERTON.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXETER AND PLYMOUTH GAZETTE,

PASSING from Budleigh towards Otterton, we came to a Cross erected as far back as the year 1743, in the centre of the four roads. As we approached the parish church, dedicated to St. Michael, we could not but admire its commanding height, and we flattered our-

selves that the structure would do honor to its situation ; but on entering the south porch, disappointment grew upon us. It soon appeared to be but the remnant of a Church ; the position of the tower at the east end, and the abrupt termination of the walls in that direction, satisfied us, that the Choir of the Monks extended beyond the tower, and that the present fabric was reserved for the use of the parishioners. It measures in length sixty feet, by forty-seven in breath. The south aisle, connected with the nave by three arches, had an ancient chapel in its eastern extremity ; the *piscina* is still visible, and near it is the altar-tomb of James Courtenay, the younger son of James Courtenay, of Cheriton, Esq. who died 6th September, 1593.

Mr. Polwhele, p. 231, *Hist. Devon.* amuses his readers with the fiction of an ancient nunnery here, and points out the passage communicating with the Church, by which " the nuns used to go to their orisons." He ought to have known, that the nuns never once resided at Otterton, and that the adjoining inclosure, called the *Nun's Court*, derived its name from being the *property of the Abbess and Convent of Sion House*, just as the *Lady's Barn*, in Rockbeare parish, was so called from belonging to the *Nuns of Canonsleigh*.

Our readers are aware that King John founded here a Priory for four monks, dependant on St. Michael's Abbey, in Normandy. As an alien Priory, it was suppressed in the year 1414, and its possessions were immediately annexed by King Henry V. to his noble foundation of Stonhouse, in Middlesex. The Manor of Otterton was held by that Royal Monastery until its dissolution, 126 years later, and was then purchased, with other estates, of K.

Henry VIII. by Richard Duke, Esq. a clerk of the Augmentation Court, for the sum of £1727 4s. 2d. The new proprietor, as we are told by Sir Wm. Pole, (p. 151, *Collections*,) &c. "bwilded a fayre howse in this place upon an ascent over the river Otter which driveth his mylles underneath the howse."

It was natural to expect the sight of many memorials of the affluent and powerful family of DUKE, in the Parish Church; but here again disappointment gathered upon us. In the north side of the chancel we observed a mural tablet, without any inscription, but the date, 1589. Mr. Lysons (p. 376, part 11, Devon) supposes that it commemorates Richard Duke, the original Grantee of the Manor. But considering the long interval of nearly half a century between this date and the acquisition of the Manor, is it not more probable that it refers to Richard Duke, the nephew and heir of the first proprietor? On a brass plate in the chancel we read

Memoriæ Sacrum
Rici Duke Ar. qui
obiiit 19 Apr An ^o . Dni
1641
Reliquit fili} os 3
as 2

The figures of the children are engraved on the sides; but to fill up the space assigned to the Ladies, an hour glass and skull are introduced, with the words "omniscar, fænum." From another brass we copied the following:

Sarah procharissima
uxor Roberti Duke Ar.
filia et cohæres Rici
Reynell de Creedy, Ar.
Obiit 2 ^o Feb. An ^o . 1641
Reliquit fili} os 3
as 5

The sons and daughters are also arranged on either side of the tablet. Another brass was inscribed—

“Richard Duke, buried 10th July, 1740, æt. 52.”

This gentleman dying without male issue, left his estates to John Heath, son and heir of Staplehill Heath, of Ottery St. Mary, merchant, and grandson of Thomas Heath, of Exeter, merchant; he took the name of *Duke*. After his death (which happened in 1775) the property was advertised for sale and was finally purchased, 24th Sept. 1785, by Denys Rolle, the father of Lord Rolle, the present owner.

In this Manor was the chapel of “*La Hederland*,” which, with the Parish Church, was appropriated by Henry Marshall, Bishop of Exeter, on 31st Aug. 1205, to St. Michael’s Abbey, in Normandy, to assist in entertaining pilgrims, and the exercise of hospitality, “*ad peregrinorum et hospitum susceptionem*.” Bishop Brewer confirmed this grant, and it also received the approbation of Simon Langton, Archbishop of Canterbury, 25th Sept. 1225. See the Custumale de Otterton, p. 49. In the same Custumale is copied the agreement between Richard de Albo Rivo, Prior of Otterton, and Robert, the Vicar of the Parish Church, respecting Parochial Tithes. This instrument is dated Otterton, 5th Feb. 1317.

I meet in a deed of the early part of Henry the Third’s reign, of a grant of 9 *virgates* of land in length, and 6 in breadth *de la Hille*, each virgate 18½ feet, by Moran, the son of Robt. Upholl, to John Miller. It is witnessed by some persons of *Oterton*.

CURIOSUS.

No. XXXV.

WASHFIELD.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXETER AND PLYMOUTH
GAZETTE.

THE Church, dedicated to St. Mary, stands on a rising ground, and consists of a tower, containing five bells, and of a nave, and chancel, connected with a north aisle by four plain arches. The capitals of the first arch in the chancel are boldly cut, but claim to be rescued from their multiplied layers of white-wash. The whole of the chancel, with the windows and altar-piece, is fitted up in a style perfectly at variance with the character of the fabric. In 1624, the ancient screen was removed for the present one, which must be considered as a tasteless substitute.

With the general appearance of the north aisle, we had reason to be gratified : the windows have been left uninjured by Churchwardens and such like innovators: some stained glass is here preserved, viz. a part of the figure of St. Anthony of Egypt, as we judge from the robe marked with the letter *Tau*. the letter *M*. the initial *St. Maria* :—the *I. H. S* : the portrait of St. John, with the words *Scs. Johannes* : St. Bartholomew with the knife—St. Thomas with the spear. an abbess; a calf, emblematic of St. Luke, with the inscription *Scs. Lucas*—and the Lion, with the words, *Scs. Marcus*. The font resembles

that at Kenne, square, with a circular stem in the centre, surrounded by four slender columns at the angles. Each side of the square is inscribed by six circular arches. The interior length of the Church, including the tower, is 67 feet, by 26 in width.

The first time that we have met with Washfield Church was Dec. 1329, when *Henry Abbott* presented. Soon after the right of presentation devolved to the *Worths*, of Worths, who still possess it. In the north aisle are seven monuments of this ancient Family.

The following epitaph, we think, would for its quaintness have excited the jealousy of the Monkish muse.

Armaiger Henrycus cubat hoc sub seminæ Worthus
Worthus clarus avis secula tricena suis
Cujus digna nictat virtus, constantia digna
Integrior quo nemo fuit, nec auantior æqui
Egregium meritus nomine reque decus,
Non obiens perit, tantum disparuit, atque
Cælitibus superis annumerandus abit.
Vivit in Henrico nato Henricoque nepote
Ne cadat antiquæ stirps recidiva domus.
Obiit Aug. 3, Anno. D. 1606, ætatis sue 72.

Another monument is inscribed to Henry Worth, who died 1630. His wife Elizabeth, daughter of Nicholas Fry, of Yarty, Esq. died in 1626.

A tablet records the memory of Alicia, daughter of William Fry, Esq. and wife of Philip Steyngyns, Esq. After giving her husband 9 sons and 5 daughters she survived him, and died 8th August, 1605, æt. 72. Her son George Montgomery erected this memorial, viz:—

Alice, daughter unto Willm Frye and Philip Steynings wye.
(Both Squires) with her husband led a long and lovinge lyfe.

Nyne sons, and daughters five she bare, and then as turtle true,
(He dying first) she lyved sole, and would not choose anew.
Birth, beauty, personage, good grace, court, breedinge, gravitye,
Chast love, trueth, virtae, constant faith and sincere piety.
A lyfe made her beloved and blest, yea dead, though envye burst
And malice selfe can speake but well, if they would speake ye
worst

Aged seaventie two she yielded here her body to the dust,
Her soule into her Saviour's hands, in whom was all her trust ;
By whom in sorrow, sicknes, health, lyfe, death, she still was
blest,

With whom she now in heavenly joy hath everlastinge rest.
Her birth-place Yarty was ; her lyfe in Holnecot she led,
In worth, amongst her deerest frends she made her fattall bed.
Adiew, deere Mother, wee must part although we loved deereley,
Yet spyte of death, lyfe once agayne, I hope shall joyne us
neereley.

And for thy love, whilst thou didst live, I vow though dead
thou lye,

Thy sonne Montgomerie's love to thee & thine, shall never
dye.

Obiit 8th Aug. 1605, atatis sue 72. Georgius Montgomerius
gener : posuit.

John Worth gave the Communion Plate ; the cup and
flagon in 1681, and the dish in 1717.

The Parochial Registers begin with the year 1680, (as
I learn from the Rev. CARRINGTON LEY), and are con-
tinued in a regular series to the present time. To this
Rev. Gentleman, I have to acknowledge my grateful sense
of his readiness to afford me information.

LOXBEAR, OR LOXYSBERE,

Is a mean structure, measuring in its greatest length,
the tower included, but 62 feet, and in breadth about 15
feet. The tower, containing 3 bells, is but 32 feet high.

An antiquary must regret that the Saxon or Norman doorway, with the zigzag and pellet moulding, should be in great measure concealed by the South Porch.

As early as 1352, the Avenels presented to this Church. From them the right passed to the Trobridges and Richards; and finally the presentation was vested solely in a Trobridge, who in the latter end of Q. Elizabeth's reign sold it to Daniel Cudmore, Esq. I believe this to be the gentleman who was buried in the *Temple Church, London*, with the following epitaph:

“Here lieth the body of Daniel Cudmore, of Loxbear, in the County of Devon, Esq. who was a member of this Society. He departed this life the 18th day of June, Anno Domini, 1631.”

Another Daniel Cudmore died 30th January, 1638, æt. 68, and was buried at Loxbear. By his will, dated the 16th of October preceding his death, he left £23, the interest to be given to the poor on Good Friday. His wife Joan departed this life 6th May, 1645. In the chancel is a tablet to Zachary Cudmore, Esq. who died 26th May, 1657, æt. 47; his widow Mary followed him to the grave in March, 1666, æt. 47. Richard Deules, who died in 1637, was a benefactor to the parish; but the inscription on his grave-stone it is difficult to decypher.

The font, the piscina, and indeed the *tout ensemble*, can hardly be worse. On examination I found the Registers of Baptisms began with the year 1710, of Burials, with 1704, and of Marriages with 1716. Ecton, in his *Thesaurus*, asserts, that the Church paid 20d. yearly to the Rector of Cadeleigh; Q. if Calverleigh? which was formerly a chapel of ease and dependant on Loxbear, as we learn from Bishop Grandisson's Register.

CURIOSUS.

No. XXXVI.

ASHTON CHURCH.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXETER AND PLYMOUTH
GAZETTE

THE Church stands on a rising ground, and to the traveller ascending the Teign from Fair-Bridge is a pleasing object. It consists of a nave and chancel, which are connected with a north aisle, by five elegantly simple arches ; and of a stately tower containing 6 bells. The clear measurement of the inside of the edifice is 56 feet by 30 ; the windows are gracefully pointed, and abound with more coloured glass than is usually found in parochial churches. The arms of Chudleigh viz. Ermine, 3 Lioncels rampant, Gules, are often repeated ; we observed also the escutcheons of Courtenay, Lacy, and Paulet. The font is an octagon ; but four of the sides bear shields 1st, of Stourton : 2d, of Stourton impaled with Chudleigh. (N. B. Jas. Chudleigh married Margaret, daughter of Wm. Lord Stourton, in 1476) : 3d, of Chudleigh : 4th of ditto impaled or rather *meant*, as I imagine, to be impaled with Tremaine.

The ancient screen is in tolerable preservation, and several figures of Saints may yet be recognised on the outer

pannels, viz. St. Appolonia holding the pincers compressing a tooth ;—St. Barbara with her tower ; St. Anthony with the letter *Tau* on his robe, and a pig at his feet ;—St. Sidwella with her scythe ;—St. George in the act of dispatching the Dragon ;—Bishop Blase with the iron comb ;—the Blessed Virgin with the infant Jesus in her arms ;—the Blessed Virgin as a *Mater dolorosa*—St. John the Baptist, the Patron of the Church, with the medallion of the Lamb ;—St. Stephen holding a stone—St. Dorothy with a basket of flowers; St. Michael with his banner ;—the four Evangelists, and the four Doctors of the Latin church. In the interior part of the screen are several decent, not to say spirited designs, relating to the general resurrection, annunciation and visitation of the Blessed Virgin, and the transfiguration of our Lord. Most of the labels are distinctly legible. The Chudleighs presented to the living, certainly from the beginning of K. Edwd. the third's reign. In cases of minority the right devolved on the Earls of Devon, who were Lords in Chief of the Manor of Ashton, as well as the Advowson of its Church. Thus on the 25th April, 1358, Robert Kirkham presented to the living, as we learn from Bishop Grandisson's Register, “ *ratione custodie manerii de Asshcherston quam emit una cum advocatione ipsius ecclesie a Dno comite Devonie ejusdem capitali Dno durante minore aetate Jacobi Chuddeleigh veri Patroni.* ”

To the memory of Sir Geo. Chudleigh, is a mural monument in the north aisle ; he died 15th Jan. 1657 ; his lady Mary, eldest daughter of Sir Wm. Strode, knt. was also buried here. She was the fruitful mother of 9 sons and as many daughters. Mary, the eldest daughter,

married Hugh Clifford, of Ugbrooke, Esq. the father of the Lord Treasurer Clifford,

We cannot take leave of the Church without expressing our satisfaction at the good taste which has preserved the ancient benches. Boldly carved, neat and solid, they always look respectable, and agreeably harmonize with the venerable fabric. And well might Weever, in fol. 701. of his *Funeral Monuments*, reprobate the custom of pews, as covering the memorials of the dead, and promoting indolence. He calls it "a fashion of no long continuance, and worthy of reformation."

CURIOSUS.

No. XXXVII.

T R U S H A M.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXETER AND PLYMOUTH GAZETTE.

FROM the Conquest until the suppression of religious houses, the Manor and Advowson of Trusham, or Trisma, belonged to Buckfastleigh Abbey.

The present Church was dedicated by Bishop Bronecombe, on 19th Nov. 1259. With the exception of its tower it has a mean appearance. Where the nave opens into the north aisle, by 3 plain arches, the width is about 28 feet, the clear length of the fabric is 48 feet. The chancel is very small, with a viscina of the rudest form

and character: on the screen we observed the painted figures of St. Peter, Paul, Andrew, James, Simon, George and Helen. The circular and unadorned font may have belonged to an earlier structure.

The Monuments are few. In the north wall of the chancel is an altar tomb of the Staplehills of Bremell. The orthography on the brass plate is ludicrous indeed, but it records that Hugh Staplehill died 30th Sept. 1583, æt. 41;—that his eldest son and heir, Thomas, died 10th April, 1599, æt. 23; that his 2d son John, died 1st Aug. 1604, æt. 28: and that Sabina his wife, the mother of his children Thomas, John, Roger, Elizabeth, Mary, and Amy, was also interred here.

On the south side of the chancel is a mural monument of John and Mary Stooke, liberal benefactors to the poor.

In the nave is a tablet to Rev. Wm. Stooke, who died 30th April, 1677.

ASHCOMBE.

Bishop Bronescombe, on the vigil of St. Clement, (22d Nov.) 1259, dedicated the Church, and the Registers of this successors satisfactorily prove, that the right of presentation belonged to the secular canons of Merton* in Surrey, until the dissolution of religious houses. The church has a north aisle; by measurement we found the interior of the fabric to be 74 feet in length and 25 feet in breadth; the recent addition of a wing on

* This Priory was founded by K. Hen. I. in 1121. *Canon-teign* estate formerly was part of its possessions.

the south side increased the breadth to 42 feet. The arms of Kirkham, 3 lions, rampant, gules, appear in the capital of the first arch of the nave. This family held very considerable property in the parish, and for a long period were Lords of the Manor. Of late, considerable sums have been expended in embellishing the fabrick. Whilst we greatly admire the spirit displayed in the undertaking, we could have wished that in the projecting mouldings of the side windows, and in the form of the arch, the east window of the chancel had been adopted for the model. To us it was painful to see the respectable screen flung aside, as useless lumber. With deference we may ask, if after all that has been done here to restore the solid praying places of our forefathers, it be not a violation of symmetry to introduce lumpish pews or boxes in the north aisle and chancel? Bishop Stafford, on 2d Dec. 1396. licensed John Cade, and Alice his wife to have an oratory in their house within the manor of Ashcombe.

CURIOSUS.

No. XXXVIII.

A S H B U R T O N .

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXETER AND PLYMOUTH GAZETTE.

THE Manor of Essebretone belonged to the Bishopric of Exeter when the Domesday Survey was

taken.* In the 3d year of Edward II. 1310, Bishop Stapledon procured a market and fair for the town. Edward VI. in the 3d year of his reign, licensed Bishop Veysey to alienate the manor to Francis Poole, Esq. and others. Sir W. Pole says, " Both the manor and Borough belanged antiently to the Bishaps of Exeter, but now remain to them only the sad remembrance of how much their predecessors had, and how little they have now."

The Church, situated at the west end of the town, and dedicated to St. Andrew, is a handsome structure ; it is built in the form of a cross, and from the style of its architecture, I conclude that it was erected at the commencement of the 15th century ; the chancel appears to be of an earlier date. The interior length is 102 feet 6 inches, and including the tower is 20 feet longer ; the breadth of the transept is 80 feet, and of the nave and north and south aisle 43 feet. The interior consists of a nave, connected with side aisles by five arches, springing from plain octagonal columns, and of a transept, chancel, and north porch. The windows are large and much divided by mullions and ramified tracery. The north and south fronts, and the porch, are embattled. The walls are supported by plain buttresses ; on each side at the western extremities of the aisles is an embattled turret. The tower is 92 feet high, and strongly buttressed ; over the belfry door are three handsome niches, but the statues have long been removed. At the eastern end there is a small vestry, communicating

* Mr. Lysons is evidently mistaken in stating that Ashburton is the Aisbertone of Domesday, and which was vested in the Crown when the Survey was taken ; this manor is *Ashprington*.

with the chancel ; it is more ancient than the present edifice ; the windows are small and pointed ; its height to the parapet is about 18 feet. It is to be regretted that the inside of the fabric had undergone so many alterations as to retain but little of its original appearance. Several modern windows were introduced during the years 1796 and 1798 ; the windows at the extremities of the aisles are likewise blocked up. The pews are uniform and handsome. The altar-piece is rather an elegant design of pointed architecture. The pulpit, font, and galleries, are modern ; in the west gallery there is an organ. In the wood-work of the roof is some good carving of foliage, the bosses adorned with roses and knots ; at the extremities of the transverse beams are small figures of angels holding shields. Near the doorway is an arch, which led up to a room over the porch, now destroyed. The tower contains 6 bells. Not a vestige is left of the handsome screen ; it was removed about 50 years ago, and the fragments remained in an outhouse for some years afterwards. Another screen separated the south transept from the south aisle ; there were stalls in the chancel annexed to the screen, and also on the other side of it in the nave.* All these elegant specimens of art have disappeared before the rage for modern improvements.

The upper part of the south aisle goes by the name Cruse's aisle, and formerly belonged to a family of that name, who resided in the town. On a tablet against the wall is the following inscription :—“ Here lyeth the

* From the information of the late Rev. J. PALK.
P

bodys of Thos. Cruse, gent. who was here interred the 28th April, 1642, and G. Cruse, gent. who was also interred the 8th day of Jan. 1649." Arms, *Azure, a bend argent and gules, indented between six escallops argent.* This aisle is now appropriated as a burial place to the Dunning family, and against the east end is a handsome marble monument to the memory of John Dunning, the first Lord Ashburton. The bad taste displayed in blocking up the east window for the erection of the monument, is to be deprecated. There are no ancient monuments; the walls, are, however, adorned with many neat mural tablets of modern date. The communion-plate was stolen a few years since from the vestry; the thieves were apprehended and convicted of the crime; some fragments were restored to the parish. The new plate was presented to the Church by Sir Lawrence Palk, Bart. The great tythes are appropriated to the Dean and Chapter of Exeter, who are the patrons of the Vicarage.

Bishop Stapledon, 3d April, 1314, visited this Church, which he found in a dilapidated state, especially the north aisle; he complained of the deficiency of the sacred ornaments, required the rebuilding of the said north aisle, and farther enjoined that the repairs should be finished, and the deficiencies supplied by the ensuing Michaelmas, under a penalty of £20, payable to the fabrie of Exeter Cathedral. John Brydport, or Burford, who was instituted to the Vicarage September 22d, 1435, by his will, made June 6th, 1449, left a chalice, some vestments, and a missal, to the altar of St. Catharine, in his Church. John Gilbert, who was admitted Vicar August 1st, 1721, was afterwards promoted to the Bishopric of Salisbury. Polwhele, *Hist. of Devon*, p. 498, states that the Church

of Ashburton was an appendage to the Abbey of Buckfastleigh." Never was an assertion made more completely in defiance of all evidence. Bickington and Buckland-in-the-Moor are dependant Chapels on Ashburton.

In a back-street not far from the Church, is the Chapel of St. Lawrence, now used for the Grammar School. On the 31st Oct. 1450, Bishop Lacy granted 40 days indulgence to the pious contributors towards this Chapel. It was a Chantry, endowed with a stipend of £6 13s. 4d. per annum. The chantry priest was to keep a Grammar School. In the early part of the last century, marriages and other occasional parochial duty were performed in it. It is repaired out of the parish lands, most probably from what formed the endowments, which were valued in the reign of Edward VI. at £10 15s. 8d. per annum. The overplus was appropriated to the maintenance and reparation of leaden pipes, "for the conduction of wholesome water for the relief of the infected, when the plague should be at Ashburton, that they might not infect others."* The only part of the original building that remains, is the tower, 63 feet high; it is terminated by a small spire. The interior consists of a well-proportioned modern room, rebuilt about 100 years ago; in it are the arms of the town, and of the families of Harris, Young, Blundell, and Gould. Some repairs having lately taken place, a basin for containing holy water was discovered in the wall, on the left hand as you enter,

DEVONIENSIS.

* Chantry Roll in the Augmentation Office, quoted by Mr. Lysong.

No. XXXIX.

BICKINGTON.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXETER AND PLYMOUTH
GAZETTE.

BICKINGTON, antiently written Bukenton and Buketon, is a village about three miles from Ashburton, on the turnpike road leading to Exeter.

The Church is a plain structure, in the worst style of the 15th century; some of the windows are divided with mullions, but are square at the top. The interior consists of a nave, connected with the north aisle by four arches; the chancel is a continuation of the nave; and a south porch. The screen is removed; a border of vine leaves, and an open tracery of quatrefoils, being a part of it, adorn the gallery. The determined hostility which Churchwardens, and in too many instances even the Clergy themselves, have evinced towards the screens in our parish churches, is deeply to be regretted; as elegant specimens of ancient art, they are objects of interest, and by their removal the interior proportions of the building are destroyed; it is to be hoped that the rage for destruction has in some degree ceased. The tower is low, and contains 6 bells.

In the chancel there is a tablet to the memory of William Woolcombe, fifty-eight years minister of this parish; he died Dec. 9th, 1691, in the 86th year of his age. Arms,

Barry of six Arg. and Gules, a mullet in chief. In the chancel and nave are several grave-stones of the Stawells, of Herebeare; on some of them are long Latin inscriptions imperfect, and partly concealed by the pews. On one I observed the arms of Stawell, *a cross lozenge*, impaling *a saltire engrailed between four mullets*.—*Wootton.* (William Stawell, who was buried at Bickington, Jan. 24th, 1642, married Joanna, daughter and heir of Hugh Wootton, of Bickington.*.) On another, *Stawell*, impaling *a chevron between three conies. Strode.* (Hugh Stawell, baptized, at Bickington, Nov. 23d, 1623, married Penelope, daughter of Sir Richard Strode, Knt.*.)

On a tomb in the church-yard, to the memory of James Furneaux of Farlecombe, 1696, are the arms of that family—*a bend between six cross crosslets.*

The Register commences in the year 1603; towards the end of that century it is kept in a very imperfect manner, and there are no entries from 1680 to 1695.

Bishop Oldham, about the year 1513, settled the dispute between the churches of Ashburton and Bickington, by ordering that the Churchwardens of the latter should pay 6s. 8d. per annum to the Churchwardens of the former on the Sunday within the feast of the Conception B. V. M. (Dec.) This sum is still regularly paid.

BUCKLAND-IN-THE-MOOR

Is a small parish on the banks of the Dart, three miles west of Ashburton, and not far from the borders of Dart-

* Pedigree of the Stawell family in my possession.

moor. The Church is a small plain structure, consisting of a nave, separated from a north aisle by three low arches, a north transept, a chancel, and south porch, and an embattled tower containing 5 bells. The interior is in good order, and the pews are new. The screen is perfect; in some of the lower panels are figures of Saints. Several of the old windows have been enlarged and removed. A circular Saxon font, the upper and lower parts ornamented with rude carvings, and connected with a fascia; there is a bracket in the transept. On a grave-stone, within the communion rails, is the following inscription in text hand;—“Here lyeth Ralfe Woodley, Lord of this manor, year of the Lord 1593.”

DEVONIENSIS.

No. XL.

HENNOCK.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXETER AND PLYMOUTH GAZETTE.

THE village of Hennock is between two and three miles from Chudleigh, in an elevated situation, overlooking the vale of the Teign, and on the verge of the downs that stretch away towards Moretonhampstead.

The Church, dedicated to the Virgin Mary, is not large, and rather low; it was built in the 15th century, and from the arms of Bishop Booth being placed in one of the windows, it was probably erected during his

episcopate ; he was Bishop of Exeter from the year 1466 to 1478. The interior consists of a nave, connected with two side aisles by four obtuse arches springing from clustered columns, a chancel, a south porch embattled, and a low tower, containing four bells ; it is in good repair and well seated. The screen is perfect, but not much ornamented ; in the lower part are some figures of saints. The pulpit and gallery are neat ; the ceiling over the pulpit is ornamented with gilt-work. The altarpiece was given by a former Vicar (Mr. Harris) ; the carved work, the painting, and the letters were executed by a Clergyman, (Mr. Madge) ; on it is the following inscription :—“ *Joannes Harris, LL. B. hujus parochias Vicarius, A. D. 1763. Joannes Jenkins struxit; Stephanus Madge scriptis.* ” The font is ancient, evidently Saxon, of a square form, the outside adorned with rude work, and supported by a solid square pedestal. In the windows of the north aisle are many fragments of painted glass. In the east window is an imperfect representation of the Magi offering presents to the infant Jesus, under rich tabernacle work. In another window are four figures of angels, with foliage and roses ; and in another, figures of the Evangelists, with their names on labels. Likewise the following arms :—

- 1.—*Three fishes hauriant, Or,—Lucy.*
- 2.—*Arg. Three boars' heads erased and erect sab. in chief a label of three points.—Bishop Booth.*
- 3.—*Checky Or, and Gules, a chief vair.—Chichester.*
- 4.—*Ermine. Three lions rampant.—Chudleigh.*
- 5.—*A bend sab. between six fountains.—Stourton.**

* James Chudleigh married Margaret, daughter of William Lord Stourton, in 1476.

On grave-stones, in the Church, are the following arms—

- 1.—*A fess frette*.—*Gale*.
- 2.—*A chevron between three water bougets*.—*Yarde*.
- 3.—*A hind passant, in chief a label*.—*Hyne. Impaling a fess indented within, between two barrulets*.—*Hody, of Nethway*.

Bishop Bronescombe taxed the Vicarage, Sept. 3d, 1259. It appears from this taxation that the Patrons, the Abbot and Convent of Torre, were to claim only the “*Decimæ Garbarum*,” the Vicar whom they presented to have the glebe, manse, small tithes, and oblations. The rectorial tythes and advowson continued with the Abbey until the Reformation. The last Abbot, Simon Rede, leased for 60 years, “*Rectoriam nostram et decimas garbarum*,” on January 4th, Anno 30^o Henry VIII. to John Southcote and John Parre. On April 7th, Anno 7^o Edward VI. this John Southcote purchased the Rectory and Advowson of the Crown, for £234 8s. The Southcote family sold the same to the Corporation of Exon, the present patrons, in 1631.* It appears from Izacke’s Account of the Legacies left to the Poor of Exeter, “That the sheaf and rectory of Hennock, with the vicarage there, was purchased by the Chamber of Exeter of — Southcote, Esq. with the sum of £400, left by Laurence Bodley, D. D. one of the Canons Residentiary of the Cathedral, for the purpose of founding a lecture at Exeter, to which Thomas Moggridge, of the city of Exeter, mer-

* Mr. Lysons states that Philip de Salmonville gave the Church of Hennock to the Abbey of Tor, in the reign of Richard I. He is certainly wrong in stating that the families of Washer and PinSENT had the patronage of the Vicarage directly after the Reformation. It is clear from the Institutions, that the Vicarage passed direct from the Abbey to J. Southcote, Esq.

chant, added the sum of £200. Dr. Bodley bequeathed his charity in 1615. T. Moggridge in 1617." The Rev. J. Hill, the present Vicar, informed Mr. Lysons that "some time between the middle and the latter end of the 17th century, the Chamber appear to have endowed the Vicarage with the great tythes, subject to £42 per annum, paid to the Mayor of Exeter on account of the lecture above-mentioned, and £7 per annum to the Lord of the Manor; it must have been between 1648 and 1692, as appears by the parish books."

The parish Register is of very early date, commencing in 1542, in the reign of Henry VIII. The early entries are in Latin.

At Knighton, a hamlet in this parish, situated on the great western road, there was formerly a Chapel, which has long been desecrated. It was used as a barn, but a few years ago it was enlarged, and converted into a Wesleyan Meeting-house. A field, called Chapel Park, half a mile distant, is said to have belonged to this Chapel, or at least that a small sum in the form of rent was to be paid from it; this field is now sold off.

DEVONIENSIS.

No. XLI.

WIDDECOMBE-IN-THE-MOOR.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXETER AND PLYMOUTH GAZETTE.

THIS Parish is situated in a romantic valley, on the borders of Dartmoor; from whatever direction the

village is approached, its elegant tower, rising above the trees, is a beautiful and striking object. The Church, dedicated to St. Pancras,* is in the form of a cross; the interior consists of a nave, separated from the side aisles by six obtuse arches springing from plain octagonal columns, a transept, chancel, vestry, and south porch. The interior length is 112 feet, the breadth of the transept 67 feet, and of the nave and aisles 45 feet. The style of the building is plain, and it was erected in the 15th century; the windows of the body of the edifice are square at the top, and divided into three compartments; those of the chancel, transept, and at the extremities of the aisles, are pointed. A fine arch supported by clustered columns in the wall, and now blocked up with masonry, once opened from the nave into the belfry; and the western part of the roof is several feet higher than the eastern. The screen was removed in the year 1754; some portions of the lower part are still left, and incorporated with the pews. In the pannels are numerous painted figures of saints and martyrs, rudely executed; the following may be observed: St. Peter with the keys; St. James, with a staff; St. Andrew, with a cross; St. Mary Magdalene, with the alabastrum; St. Sidwella, with a scythe; St. Appollo-nia, holding a pair of pincers, compressing a tooth; St. Sebastian, pierced with darts; St. Edmund, King and Martyr, with a quiver of arrows; a King, probably Edward the Confessor; a Bishop, with a crosier; another

* St. Pancras is said to have suffered at Rome in the 14th year of his age, in the year 304, during the reign of Dioclesian. St. Gregory the Great, speaks of his relics. Numerous churches are dedicated to this Saint in England, Italy, France, Spain, &c.

Bishop, in the act of benediction. The altar-piece was erected about 45 years ago; it completely blocks up the east window, and is utterly discordant with the architecture of the Church, being painted in a very gaudy manner, and adorned with hideous figures of Moses and Aaron. In the south side of the chancel is a piscina and the remains of a stall; in the south transept another piscina, and in the south aisle several stone brackets. In the east window of the north aisle are the arms of Comtenay; *Or, three torteaux, in chief a label of three points;* and in the same window, *a plain cross.* On several grave-stones in the nave are crosses. A neat octagonal font supported by a fluted shaft. Against the north wall of the chancel is a tablet to Mary, the third wife of John Elford, of Shipstor, Esq. She was of the Gale family, and died in childbirth, and was interred here Feb. 16, 1642; the wedding posie, the anagram, and chronogram on this tablet are curious specimens of the bad taste, relative to monumental inscriptions, which prevailed in the 17th century. Around it are four shields, with the following arms:—On the top quarterly, 1 and 4 *per pale* *wavy, arg. and sab.* a *lion rampant gules*, Elford. 2 and 3. *Arg. three stirrups and leathers sab.* Scudamore. Motto, *Difficilia quam pulchra.* 2. On the right side, Elford. 3. On the left side, *a fess frette*, Gale. 4. On the base, Elford, impaling quarterly. 1. *A chevron engrailed between three leopards' faces*, Coplestone. 2. *Three cross crosslets in bend*. Northcote. 3. Gale. 4. *Barry of 6 arg. and gules, in chief a label of three points*, Woolcombe. The tower, evidently erected at a later period than the Church, probably in the reign of Henry 7th, is a beautiful structure of the ornamented style of pointed architecture; it rises to

a height of above 100 feet, and is built of granite ; the angles are sustained by double buttresses, diminishing in size as they ascend, and ornamented with foliated pinnacles ; on the top are four elegant pinnacles terminated with crosses. Some injudicious, though perhaps necessary repairs, were made in 1813. In it are five bells.

The most celebrated event connected with the Church was the dreadful storm of thunder and lightning which fell on the Church and tower on Sunday the 1st of October, 1638, in the time of divine service, which was then performing by the Vicar, the Rev. Geo. Lyde. It appears that four persons were killed; three died on the day of the accident, and one a short time after ; and that 62 persons were hurt. In the Parish Register is the following notice of the persons killed :—

1638.

Roger Hill, gent. was buried the 23d day of October.
Robert Meade, } were buried the 23d day of
Sibella Millwood, } October.

In the Church, near the reading desk, is a grave-stone to the memory of Mr. Hill, with the following inscription :—

“ Hic jacent corpora Rogeri Hill, generosi, et Annae uxoris ejus. Vir obiit 21 Octobris, 1638. Uxor autem 17 Januarii, 1648.”

The repairs of the Church are said to have cost the parish more than £300. On a tablet in the Church are some verses, commemorative of this awful event.*

* Several accounts of this dreadful storm have been published. See Prince's Worthies, in the life of the Rev. George Lyde. Harleian Miscellany, vol 3. Some additional particulars have been collected by Mr. Mason, and may be met with in

From a MS. in the British Museum, for an account of which I am indebted to J. H. MERIVALE, Esq. entitled “*Nomina Villarum*,” it appears that in the ninth year of the reign of Edward II. Hugo de Courtenay held the manors of “*Wydecomb cum Spichewyk Nottesworthy et Blakdon, nomine minoris etatis Thomæ filii Radulphi.*”

The Parish Registers commence—Burials, 1560; Baptisms, 1570; Marriages, 1573.

Bishop Quivil taxed the Vicarage about the year 1285; patrons the Dean and Chapter of Exeter. The rectorial tythes and advowson continued with the Chapter until the Reformation, when they were alienated, but were restored by Queen Elizabeth, July 5, 1585, through the exertions of Bishop Walton, who recovered for his Cathedral Church those chantry lands, tenements, and rents, which had formerly been appropriated to the maintenance of obituary services.

At Spitchwick, now a seat of Lady Ashburton’s, there was formerly a chapel; in old documents I have frequently met with the “*Capella de Spychewyke*”

The vicarage-house having lately undergone some extensive repairs, on an old beam were found the letters M. H. B. cut in Lombardic capitals. They perhaps stand for Henricus Magister Brusye. He was instituted Vicar 16th Nov. 1503, and died in 1532.

Miss White, of Ashburton, in or about the year 1797, vested the sum of £142 in the 5 per cents, in trustees, for the education of poor children of this parish. With

the Guide to the Scenery of Ashburton, Appendix, No. 4. The verses in the church have been published in Lyson’s History of Devon. There is likewise a copy of verses on the subject, in MS. composed by Mr. Lyde,

his benefaction, aided by annual subscriptions, four schools are supported, in which 50 children are instructed, the boys being taught to read, and the girls to knit and sew.

In my researches respecting this Church I have received great assistance from the Rev. J. H. MASON, Vicar of Widdecombe, whose liberality in promoting every undertaking to illustrate the history and antiquities of his native county merits this acknowledgment.

DEVONIENSIS.

No. XLII.

MANATON.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXETER AND PLYMOUTH
GAZETTE.

THIS parish is situated four miles south of Moretonhampstead, in the midst of a wild romantic country, surrounded by ranges of granite rocks. The Church is dedicated to St. Winifred; there is nothing peculiar in the architecture, which is of the pointed style that prevails at the commencement of the 15th century.* The south front and porch, being embattled, have a pic-

* There are various traditions in the parish, relative to one Bowerman, who is to have possessed the manor in the reign of William the Conqueror, and to have built the Church. It is evident from the Domesday Survey that no such person existed at the time, nor should I have alluded to the circumstance but for an extract from Dean Milles's MS. inserted in Polwhele's history of Devonshire, stating the above particulars, but as usual without quoting any authority. The whole is a mere legend, utterly devoid of foundation.

turesque effect. The interior consists of a nave, two side aisles, and chancel ; the aisles are connected with the nave, by four obtuse arches, springing from fluted columns. It measures from east to west 89 feet; and in breadth, including the aisles, 40 feet. The screen is perfect and handsome, ornamented with a profusion of tracery, foliage, and quatefoils ; in the lower pannels are painted figures of saints, bishops, &c. almost obliterated. The steps to the rood-loft remain, and are carried up through a small castellated turret, which rises above the roof on the south side. The roof of the porch is groined, and supported by small pillars inserted in the wall; there is a room over it. A plain octagonal font. A new altar-piece from an elegant design of pointed architecture, in unison with the fabric, has lately been erected by Mr. Kendall. The tower is 89 feet in height, and contains four bells. In the windows of the north aisle are a few figures in painted glass ; St. Andrew, St. James, the Virgin, &c. The Church was much injured by a terrible thunder-storm, which occurred on Monday morning, Dec. 13th, 1779. From a memorandum inserted in the Parish Registers, it appears that the east front of the chancel was demolished, as likewise a handsome new altar-piece and the communion table ; the northern side of the tower was split from the top to almost the bottom, and one of the pinnacles broke into the roof of the northern and southern sides of the church, and crushed some seats in its fall. The storm came from the north-west, and directed its course to the south-east. On a tablet on the south side of the chancel is the following inscription :—"Here lyeth the body of Richard Eastchurch, Master of Arts, who was Rector of this parish 37 years,

died the 11th day of February, An. 1698, aged 61. Arms, *A cross vair Arg. and Gules. A sun, Or in 1st quarter, crest a rainbow.* A neat marble tablet has lately been erected in the chancel to the memory of the Rev. Wm. Carwithen, A. B. 44 years Rector of this parish ; he died October 31st, 1824 ; and of Mary his wife.

The patronage of the Rectory formerly belonged to the Kirkham family ; it was purchased from Francis Kirkham, Esq. by John Carwithen, of Exeter, Feb. 3, 1723, whose descendant, the Rev. W. Carwithen, A. M. is the present incumbent and patron.

From an early period, the great tithes of the west side of the parish were appropriated to the Church of Salisbury, and have been held in conjunction with those of the parish of Kenton. I have been favoured with the following title of a deed, now in the Chapter House of that Cathedral :—“ *Indentura inter Procuratorem Decani et Capti Sarum, et Rectorem Ecclesie de Maniton de Decimis in Paroch. de Kenton, Anno 1274.* ”

The Parish Register commences in 1653.

DEVONIENSIS.

No. XLIII.

INWARDLEIGH.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXETER AND PLYMOUTH GAZETTE.

INWARDLEIGH is situated nearly midway between Okehampton and Hatherleigh, in the midst of a wild open country. The Church (I cannot find out to what Saint it is dedicated) is a small plain structure, erected during the

15th century, when the greater part of the country Churches in this county were rebuilt. It consists of a nave, connected with a north aisle by four arches springing from clustered columns; a chancel, being a continuation of the nave; and a south porch. Not a vestige of the screen is left; a plain square Saxon font, on a circular pedestal. The tower is embattled, and contains four bells. In the chancel and aisle are piscinæ; and in the churchyard I observed the pedestal of a cross.

The upper part of the aisle is appropriated to Northleigh, an ancient seat in this parish, and there are several monumental inscriptions to the families of Northleigh and Denis.* The following, in text hand, is the most ancient:—“Heare lyeth Rémon di Northleigh, gentleman, buried the fyrist day of June, in the year of our Lord God, 1568.” The arms of Northleigh—*Arg. a chevron sab. between three roses*; and of Denis—*Three Danish battle-axes erect, or*,—are on several of these grave-stones.

On the floor of the chancel are some ornamented tiles, and on a grave-stone is the following inscription:—“Here lyeth the body of Rebekah, the wife of Edward Fortescue, gent. and daughter of Richard Rolle, of Cookberre, gent. who departed this life the last day of May, Anno Dom. 1686.” Arms—*Fortescue impaling Rolle*.

The Register commences 1699. It was neglected by a former Rector, the Rev. John Denis, from the year

* Northleigh is situated about a mile west of the village; the mansion was built in the reign of Elizabeth, and though now converted into a farm-house, and a part pulled down, it still retains some marks of its former respectability; the arms of Northleigh are yet to be seen in painted glass in the entrance hall; six descents of that ancient family are given in the Heraldic Visitation of 1641, as having resided here. The heiress of the family, about the latter end of the 17th century, married Denis.

1756, to the time of his death, August 25th, 1774; but this defect was supplied in the best manner possible by Wm. Moore, the subsequent Rector.

From the Register I have been enabled to make out the following list of Rectors.—

1573.—Mr. Sadler, Mr. Parker, Mr. Jennings, Mr. Lane, Mr. Trescott.

— Bridgman was an intruder in Oliver's time.*

1663.—Mr. Nation (styled in the Register a true Churchman); he died May 16, 1702, æt. 82.

1702.—Richard Nicholls succeeded.

1745.—John Silke succeeded Nicholls. Ob. Jan. 2d.

1751. æt. 36. A grave stone to his memory in the chancel.

1751.—John Denis succeeded; ob. August 25th 1774. In the aisle there is a tablet to his memory.

1775.—William Moore, A. M. succeeded, as patron in his own and wife's right.

1779.—Francis Moore succeeded, on the presentation of his father.

1795.—Thomas Burrow succeeded, who vacated the living, in

1799.—To Richard Hole, LL. B. also Rector of Farringdon in this county, who was succeeded in

1803.—By Richard Holland, A. M. the present Rector, on his own presentation as Patron.

DEVONIENSIS.

* Some particulars respecting Bridgman and Nation, may be seen in Walker's *Sufferings of the Clergy*, and Calamy's *Non-conformists' Memorial*.

ON THE SUPPOSED TOMB OF
SIR WILLIAM DE TRACEY,
The Murderer of Becket,
IN MORTHOE CHURCH.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXETER AND PLYMOUTH
GAZETTE.

A VERY erroneous account having appeared respecting Sir WILLIAM DE TRACEY, the murderer of Becket, I am induced to trouble you with the following communication:—Risdon, in his Survey, states, without quoting any authority, that “in this retired place (Morthoe) Sir William Tracey, son of Oliver Lord Tracey, lived a private life, after he, with others, had slain Thomas Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury, in King Henry 2d’s time; of whom this report goeth, that, after this fact, wind and weather were ever against him, a proverb applied to the unfortunate. The punishment of a priest-killer (as in some authors is to be seen), was not the death of the body by execution, but of the soul by excommunication, until about the 23d year of that King’s reign, when it was yielded that such persons should also suffer loss of life. Certain it is, he withdrew himself hither; here he spent the remainder of his life, and lieth buried in an aisle of this Church, by him built, under an erected monument, with his portraiture engraven on a grey marble stone.” Some doubts having arisen respect-

ing this tradition, in the summer of 1820 I visited Morthoe Church for the purpose of inspecting the monument : it is an altar-tomb in the south aisle, or rather transept, and is about eight feet in length, and two in height, supported by arches, in which are some rude figures representing the Crucifixion of our Saviour between the two thieves; there are likewise some arms on the escutcheons. On the flat slab is the imperfect representation, almost effaced, of a man at full length, holding a chalice in his hand. This is decisive that the tomb cannot be that of De Tracey, the murderer of Becket, but of a priest. The inscription, in Lombardic capitals, extending round the border of the slab, is nearly obliterated. The meaning appears to be,

“Sir William De Tracey : may I find mercy.”

This inscription may likewise be seen in Camden and Risdon. There does not appear to be the least authority whatever for the tradition recorded by Risdon. The Traceys were an ancient Devonshire family ; they were Lords of Barnstaple, and possessed extensive property in various parts of the county. Sir Wm. Pole says, “that Sir William Tracey, of Barnstaple, followed King Henry the 2nd in his wars, and was one of the knights who slew Archbishop Becket.” He died at Cozenza, in Italy, within three years after the murder. (See *Alban Butler's Lives of the Saints*, where the original authorities are quoted.) At Woolacombe Tracey, in the parish of Morthoe, near Morte Bay, a branch of the Traceys resided, but it does not appear that Sir William had any property there ; he was most probably a soldier of fortune, who followed the Court of Henry. Moreover the aisle of the Church and the Tomb are not so ancient as the time of Henry the 2d, but of the style of architecture

which prevailed in the 14th century. There is, however, almost certain evidence to whom this tomb belonged. It appears from fol. 170, of Bishop Stapledon's register, that a Clergyman of the name of William Tracey, had the living of Morthoe, and died in the winter of 1322, and that Thomas Robert succeeded him in the benefice. The title Sir, or Sire, which most probably misled Risdon, was frequently given to clergymen before and after the Reformation. In Iceland at present they always take the appellation Sira. The evidence concerning this clergyman can likewise be strengthened by other testimonies. By an inquisition, *ad quod damnum*—Anno 1st Edward the 2d, (1307) it is set forth, “That Sir Wm. Tracey had assigned 3*l.* 6*s.* 1*d.* half an acre of land in Morthoe and Westdown, for a chantry in the said Church. Before the King consents to this alienation, he issued a writ to his escheator in Devon, to inquire whether such alienation would be prejudicial to the Crown or others.” In Prynne's Papal Usurpations is the following record:—“King Edward the 1st. Anno 25: Rogerus de Mortho et Ricardus de Sparkwill de Comitat. · Devon. : recogn. : et oblig. : regi pro *Wilhelmo de Tracey*, persona ecclesiae de Mortho, Exon. Dioces.” After all this there can be but little doubt that the tomb belongs to the incumbent in question, and it is equally evident that the murderer of Becket had never retired to Morthoe. It has likewise been mentioned that the tomb was rifled a few years since by some unknown persons: this appears likewise to have originated from Risdon, who says, “This sepulture was violated in our memory by some that hoped for gain; but disappointed of their prey, they carried thence the lead wherein the dead was wrapt; who being men of some substance, it

was observed that their wealth wasted, and they did not prosper afterwards."

I remain, Sir, your humble Servant,

J. P. J.

Ecclesiastical Antiquities of Cornwall.

THE following pages may be considered as valuable by our Cornish Readers. Unquestionably they offer the best succession of the Superiors of the Religious Foundations in Cornwall.

ST. GERMAN'S.

King Edward III, on 8th Oct. Anno Regni 32, caused an exemplification to be made of an Inquisition held that year before his escheator, John Skyrbek, shewing that Canute gave certain lands and tenements to the Church of St. German—that the Episcopal See was there in Canute's reign—that Brithwold was then its Bishop—that its Church was served by Secular Canons—that on the death of Brithwold, who was the last Bishop of Cornwall, Livingus, Bishop of Crediton, obtained of Canute that the see of Cornwall should be united to that of Crediton—that Bishop Leofric, successor to Livingus, translated the See from Crediton to Exeter, and after-

wards founded at St. German's a Priory of regular Canons and displaced the Secular ones—that the Bishop of Exeter was held to be Founder and Patron, and possessed “vacationes Prioratus cum contigerint.” At the desire of Bishop Brantyngham, K. Richard II. on 15th Oct. 1383, exemplified these letters patent of his Royal Grandfather.

Bishop Bronescombe dedicated the Conventual Church 28th Aug. 1261.

I have met with the following Priors:—

- 1.—*William*, in the reign of Henry II.
- 2.—*Godefrey*. During his superiority, Reginald de Ferrers surrendered his right “in piscaria de Tinel” to the Convent, for the yearly payment of 3s. at the octave of St. Martin.
- 3.—*Richard Polgoner*, died early in August, 1355.
- 4.—*John Precheur* succeeded Richard in the same month and year.
- 5.—*William Treskelley* occurs as Prior in 1373: from blindness and old age he resigned in 1385.
- 6.—*Richard Harepath*, succeeded in Nov. 1385.
- 7.—*John Aneray*, who died 8th Sept. 1404.
- 8.—*John Pyper* succeeded the same year: obiit 1st Feb. 1424.
- 9.—*John Hawky* confirmed Prior on 19th of the same month: he died 26th April, 1434.
- 10.—*John Kylleham* confirmed his successor 29th May following.
- 11.—*William* occurs Prior 28th June, 1462.
- 12.—*John Serle* died in office, 28th Feb. 1509.
- 13.—*Robt. Swimmer* succeeded, and was the last Prior.

BODMIN.

The Conventual Church of Bodmin was dedicated to St. Petrock. William de Worcestre measured it in the year 1478, and relates that it was 114 feet long by 60 broad, and that the length of the Lady's chapel was 48 feet more. He adds, that the length of the Parish Church was 180 feet, and the breadth 80. From this writer we further discover that the dedication of the Conventual Church was kept on 24th August. Bishop Tanner informs us, that the "Charters and Inquisitions relating to the county of Cornwall were deposited in the Priory of Bodmin."

The site was granted 36th of Henry VIII. to Thos. Sternhold, of rhyming celebrity.

PRIORS.

- 1.—*Richard* occurs in a deed preserved in Bishop Bremescombe's Register, bearing date Dec. 1269.
- 2.—*Gervasius*, who resigned in 1310.
- 3.—*John de Kylkhampton* confirmed his successor in May that year.
- 4.—*Auger Bans* admitted Prior in Lent, 1349.
- 5.—*William Cornellow* was Prior in 1373 and died in a good old age in the autumn of 1403.
- 6.—*Alan Kenegy* appointed his successor 22d Dec. 1403 : he resigned 10th Sept. 1435.
- 7.—*William Vivyan* confirmed Prior in his place 8d October.

8.—*Thomas* occurs Prior 28th June, 1462.

9.—*John* occurs in February, 1503.

10.—*William Jones* died in office, April 1508.

11.—*Thos. Vivyan* was elected and confirmed in May 1508. N. B. This prior was consecrated Bishop of Megara to be Suffragan to John Veysey, Bishop of Exeter. He died on Pentecost Sunday, 1st June 1533, and according to Leland, 3 vol. Itin. was buried, " before the High Altar of the Priory in a high tumba of a very darkeasche gray marble."

12.—*John Symons* succeeded 6th July, 1533, but resigned in the following spring on a pension of £40 per annum.

13.—*Nicholas Wandsworth* confirmed his successor 10th May, 1534.

N. B. The *Franciscan Convent* at Bodmin was situated on the South side of the market-place. It was begun by John Fitzralph; but completed 19th June, 1239, by Richard, Earl of Cornwall, brother to King Henry III. William of Worcester visited this Convent in 1478; but whoever compares pages 99 and 111 in his Itinerary, will be astonished at his variations and anachronisms. Amongst the list of benefactors, whose obits were gratefully preserved by the community, we distinguish the names of some of the Peverell, Arundell, Carnarhœ, and Segrave Families, and especially of Walter Brome-combe, Bishop of Exeter, "præcipuus Benefactor Fratrum Sancti Francisci." The Conventual Church was dedicated by John Grandisson, Bishop of Exeter, in the year 1362.

TYWADRETH.

To this Priory, dedicated to St. Andrew, Bishop Robert Chichester, between the years 1151 and 1161, appropriated the Church of St. Austle. Bishop Marshall, 28th June, 1202, granted to the same the Church of Landliviri, with its dependant Chapel of Lostwithiel. A beautiful Psaltery, in Latin and French, written in the 15th century, and now at Ugbrooke, is said to have formerly belonged to this Priory.

When Leland was at Tywadreth, he saw in the west part of the Conventual Church the Tomb of Robert Fitzwilliam, "a man of fair lands in the reign of Edward III." with the following Epitaph:—

Hæc est tumba Roberti filii Wilihelmi.

PRIORS.

Galfridus, or Jeffry, admitted Prior 22d May, 1263.

Philip, who was licensed by Bishop Stapeldon, 13th Aug. 1310, to pay a visit to the mother house of St. Sergius at Angers.

William Bonge confirmed Prior, 17th Nov. 1333, and continued in office until his death, nearly 38 years.

William de la Hay succeeded, 1st Nov. 1371. Bishop Brantyngham certified to King Edward III. that this Prior resided in his Convent with *four* monks.

John Mashyn succeeded, on William's death, 9th Dec. 1399.

John Rogger followed on Maslyn's death, 18th Dec. 1406.

John Brentyngham succeeded, on Rogger's resignation, 28th Oct. 1433, and died in office.

Walter Barnecote became the next Prior, 31st Oct. 1450.

Richard Marston died Prior in Nov. 1506.

Thomas Collyns succeeded Richard on 25th Nov. the same year, and I believe was the last Prior.

I have met with a lease of his, beginning "Thomas Collins *Dei Providentia Prior Sancti Andree*," by which he grants the Tithes "Garbarum et Granorum *infra Parochiam de Luxulian*," to Nicholas Kendall for a term of 50 years, under the yearly rent of £9 6s. 8d. The Lease is dated 16th February, 1535.

The site was granted to Edward, Earl of Hertford, Anno 34 Henry VIII.

ST. MICHAEL'S MOUNT.

The custumale of Otterton Priory shews, that Robert, Earl of Moriton, gave to the noble Abbey of St. Michael, in Normandy,* St. Michael's Mount in Cornwall, with half an hide of land and a Market there—that subsequently he added to this donation three acres of land—that the grant was confirmed by William the Conqueror, his

* This abbey was built on a rock, 400 feet high, and overhanging the sea, between Normandy and Britainy, A. D. 708, by Aubert, Bishop of Avranches.

Queen Matilda, and their three sons, Robert, William, and Henry, by the Earl's Lady, the Countess Matilda, and their son William—that Bishop Leofric had exempted its Church, “*ecclesiam beati Archangeli Michaelis de Cornubia*” from all Episcopal subjection: and that the Church was rebuilt in 1135, and consecrated by Robert Chichester, Bishop of Exeter. With the approbation of Bishop Chichester, Bernard, the Abbot of St. Michael's in Normandy, settled here 13 brethren, “*in honorem Christi Jesu et Apostolorum ejus.*”

One was Prior, and was bound to visit either in person or proxy, by one of his religious, the Mother House once every year, and to pay 16 marks of silver, as an acknowledgment of dependance.

William de Worcestre, in his Itinerary, Anno 1478, states the length of St. Michael's Church to be 30 steps, or 60 feet, and the breadth 24 feet. The length of the new chapel, “*capellæ novæ adiunctæ*,” he computes at 40 feet, and its breadth at 20. He adds, that between St. Michael's Mount and the Scilly Islands was formerly meadow and arable land, and masses of wood, and that 140 intervening Churches had disappeared in the waves!

I have met with the following Priors of this interesting spot:—

- 1.—*Radulphus de Cartaret*, admitted 21st Dec. 1260.
- 2.—*Richard Perer* succeeded 11th April 1275.
- 3.—*Gaufrid de Gernon*, instituted 8th July, 1283.
- 4.—*Peter de Cara Villa* confirmed Prior 12th Sept. 1316.
- 5.—*John Hardy* succeeded 3d Oct. 1349.
- 6.—*John de Volant*, admitted 24th April 1362.

We learn from fol. 7, vol. 11, Register Brantyngham, that this Prior with but two monks resided in the House—that St. Hilary's Church, of the yearly value of five marks and a half, and Moresk Church, of the yearly value of 20 marks, and 6s. 6d. belonged to the Convent.

7.—*Richard Auncell* succeeded 7th Dec. 1385.

His brass seal, representing the Patron Saint of the Priory transfixing the Dragon, was lately discovered in Exeter.

8.—*William Lambert* succeeded 1st Oct. 1410.

Bishop Lacy, as we read, fol. 43, vol. 3, of his Register, granted on 10th Aug. 1425, an indulgence of 40 days to all sincere penitents, who should contribute to the stone causeway then erecting between Marazion and the Mount.

LAUNCESTON PRIORY.

On 24th Oct. 1258, Bishop Bronescombe dedicated St. Stephen's Church, Launceston.

PRIORS.

1.—*Robert Fissacre.* He was excommunicated by Bishop Bronescombe, in Sept. 1258, “*propter inobedientiam et multiplicem offenditam*,” but absolved at Bodmin by the Prelate a week later.

2.—*Richard*, died Prior in 1308.

3.—*Roger de Horton* confirmed his successor, 3d May, 1308. Q. If this be not “Prior Horeston, who had a fair tumb in the south side of the Priory Church.” Leland 3d vol. Itin.

4.—*Adam de Knolle*, who resigned 26th June, 1346.

5.—*Thomas de Burden* succeeded; 13th July, the same year.

6.—*Roger Leye* was Prior in 1373.

7.—*Stephen* occurs Prior in January, 1400. "He was richely tumbered," according to Leland. I suspect that at his request Bishop Stafford, by his decree of 18th June, 1401, fixed the celebration of the Church's dedication to 20th October.

8.—*Roger Combrygge*, died Prior in June, 1410.

9.—*John Honyland* succeeded 5th July following; and continued in office until his death, 28th Sept. 1430.

10.—*William Shyra* elected his successor; but, owing to some irregularity, not confirmed by the Ordinary, Bishop Lacy, until 21st Aug. 1431.

11.—*William Hopkyn*, died Prior 10th Aug. 1507.

12.—*John Curlian* succeeded William 10th Sept.

13.—*John Baker*, who resigned in 1531.

14.—*John Sheyr*, succeeded Baker 6th June that year.

MINSTER, OR TALTHAR.

1.—*Gelfrid of Swansea*, admitted 11th Aug. 1263.

2.—*Richard* appointed in 1317.

3.—*William Bouges* succeeded 20th July, 1323, but on 17th Nov. 1333 was preferred to Tywadreth.

4.—*Gehol de Ferrer*, appointed 7th Oct. 1335.

5.—*William de la Hune* instituted 20th Sept. 1341.

6.—*William Decimarius* succeeded, and died early in 1375, when

7.—*Milet Andrew* was confirmed his successor.

GLASNEY.

St. Thomas of Canterbury's Collegiate Church here was founded by Bishop Bronescombe, for 13 secular Canons. His deed of foundation is preserved in his Register, and is dated 26th March, 1267. Towards its support he granted the Churches "*Sancti Budoci et Sancte Foece.*" The Canons were to observe the Statutes of Exeter Cathedral. The Superior was called Prepositus. Peter Quivill, the successor of Bronescombe in the See of Exeter, granted towards the better maintenance of the community the Church of St. Alun.

PREPOSITI.

- 1.—*Henry de Bolegh.*
- 2.—*Benedict de Arundell*, admitted 23d Oct. 1313.
- 3.—*Richard de Gonisale* appointed 2d January, 1347.
- 4.—*Roger de Kelly.*
- 5.—*Reginald Galle*; on 3d Feb. 1373-4, he applied to Bishop Brantyngham for a coadjutor. In his letter he tells the Prelate "*ad instar Senioris Tibie nunc in tenebris sedeo et lumen celi non video.*"
- 6.—*Thomas de Walkyngdon* appointed 10th Sept. 1375.
- 7.—*William Cullyng*, who died in the winter of 1422.
- 8.—*Nicholas Harvey* appointed 18th of the following February, and died in Sept. 1427.
- 9.—*Walter Trength*, of S. T. P. succeeded 19th Sept. 1427; but resigned in October, 1436.

10.—*Richard Redden*, or *Rew*, succeeded Walter, 23d Oct. the same year.

11.—*Master Trevynnard*, a native of St. Ives, Provost, died on Maunday Thursday, 1471, according to Wm. de Worcestre. The Collegiate Church, by that writer's measurement, must have been large; about 200 feet long: compare pp. 122 and 128 of his Itinerary.

12.—*John Evelyn*. After governing the college for some time, he exchanged for a Canonry in Exeter Cathedral with

13.—*John Pascow*, 30th Nov. 1477. He resigned in 1491.

14.—*John Oby*, collated 4th Dec. 1491; on whose death

15.—*John Nans* was collated 29th Nov. 1497, by Bishop Redmayne, who was then “ *in quadam alta camera infra Abbatiam de Torre* .

16.—*Alexander Penkyll* succeeded on Nans' resignation, in June, 1501.

17.—*William Bryn* collated in Penkyll's resignation, 24th March, 1507.

18.—*John Corke* appointed 19th July 1519.

19.—*Jacob Jentle* collated, on Corke's resignation, 2d Nov. 1526.

CURIOSUS.

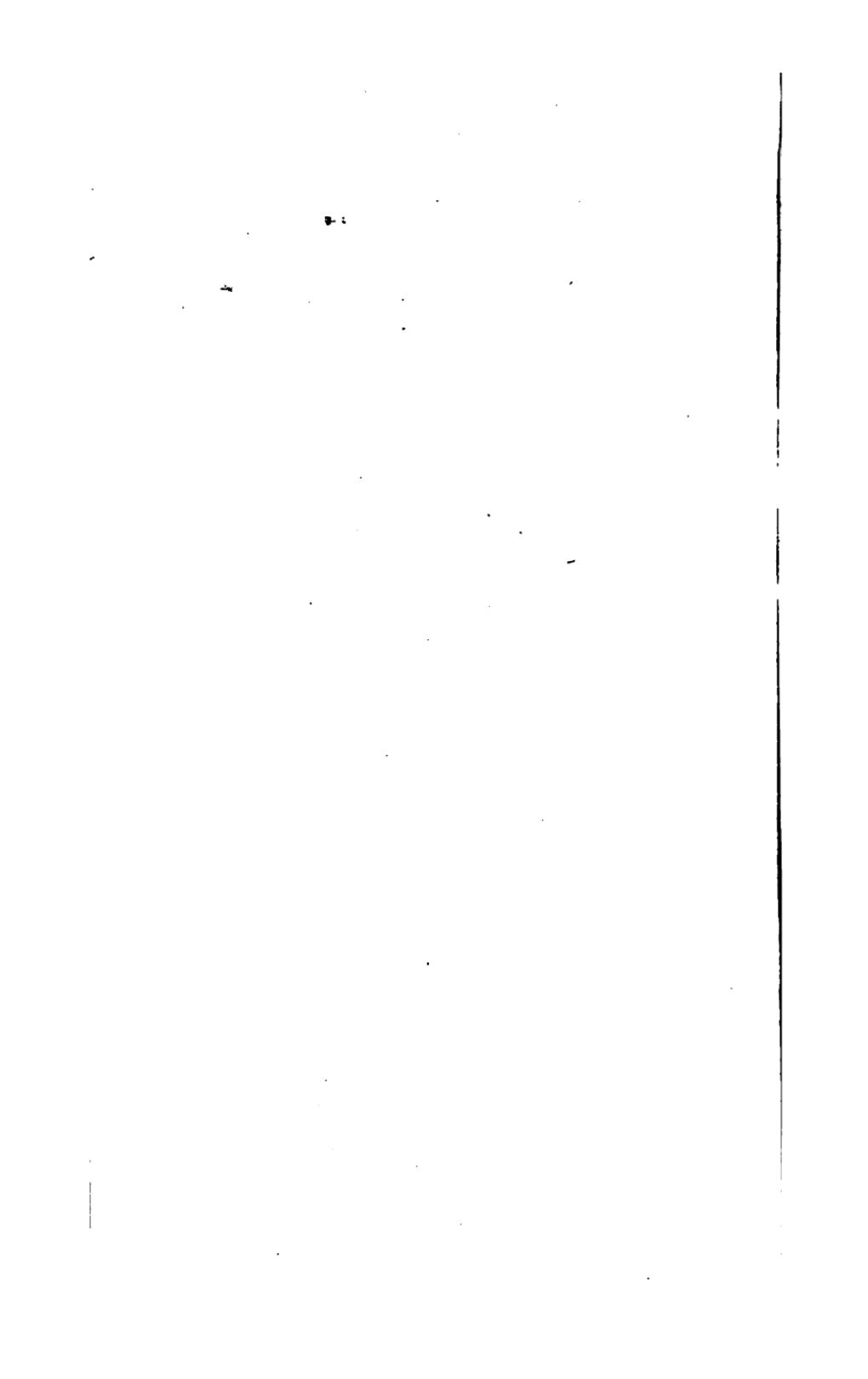
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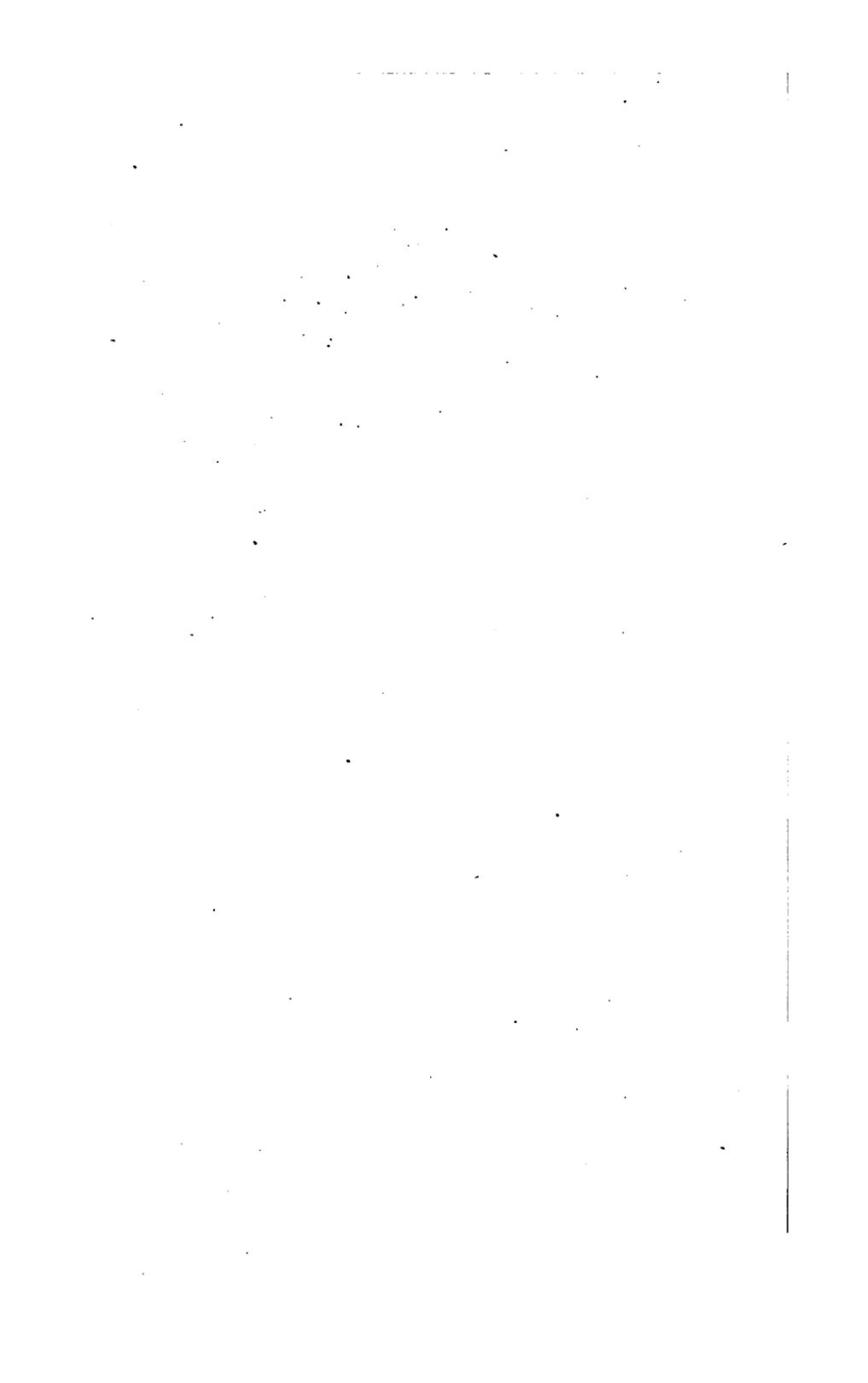
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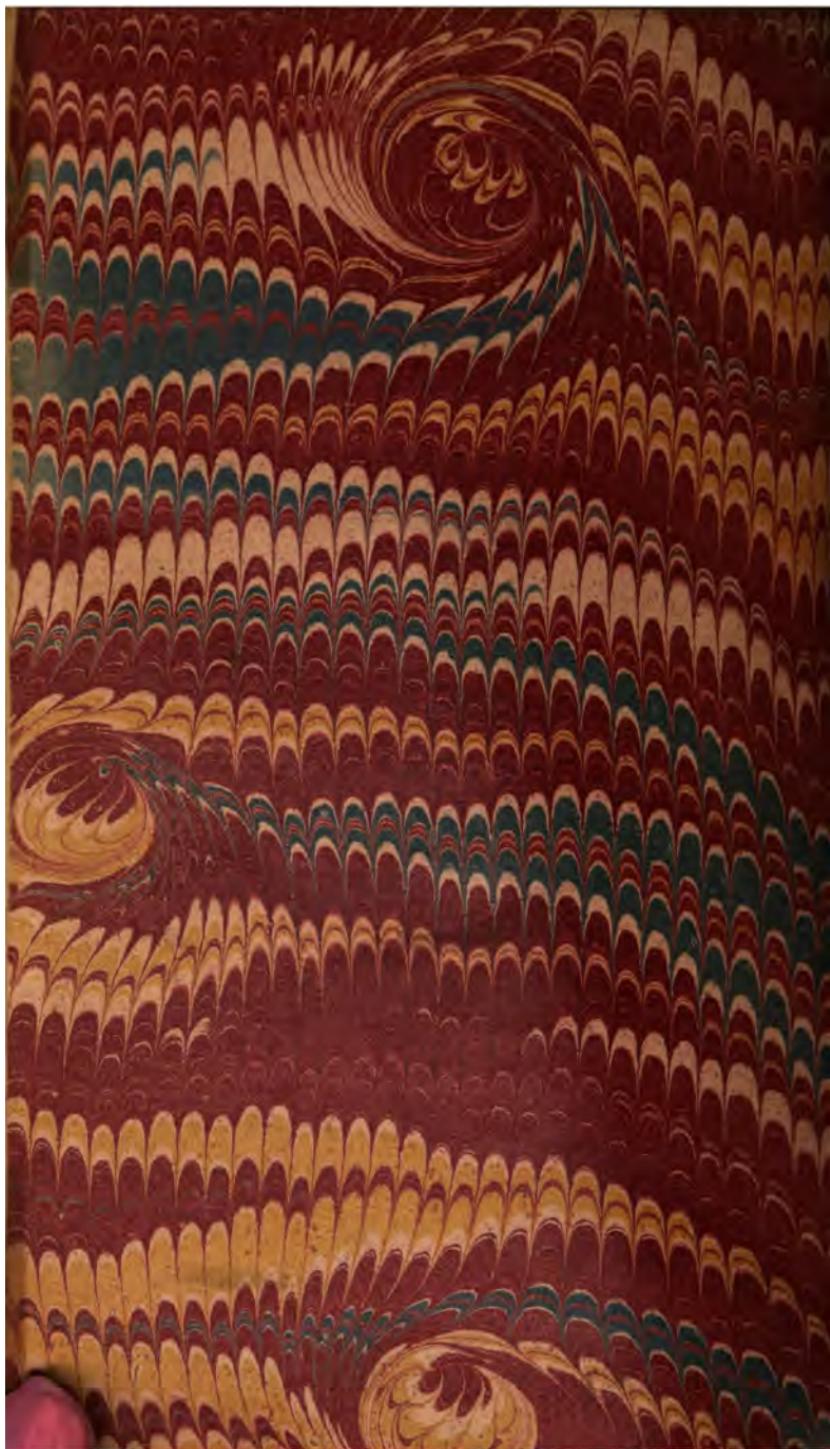
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